Bribe scandal: Probers find Belmonte liable

STORY ON PAGE A2

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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4th US anthrax victim a lonely Viet immigrant

WASHINGTON—A Vietnamese immigrant who worked in a New York hospital died on Wednesday of inhaled anthrax in a case that has baffled officials tracking the source of the infection that has so far killed four people in October in America.

The death of Kathy Nguyen, 61, is the first case not linked to the postal service or the media. It has raised questions over whether the

4TH US/ A5

ENDLESSLY remembering on All Saints' Day.

ERIK ARAZAS

AFP rejects Abu offer to negotiate

Troops kill 7 bandits, capture 2

By Julie Alipala-Inot
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ISABELA, Basilan—Military officials yesterday rejected an offer by an Abu Sayyaf leader holding 10 hostages to negotiate amid an ongoing offensive against his bandit group.

The military ruled out any negotiations with the Abu Sayyaf as Army soldiers killed seven more bandits and captured two others the past two days.

Col. Hermogenes Esperon, commander of the Army's 103rd Brigade, confirmed an Inquirer report that Abu Sabaya, one of the senior leaders of the Abu Sayyaf holding two Americans and eight Filipinos, "has sent surrender feelers and is asking for negotiations."

But Esperon told a news conference that Sabaya and his men must surrender and hand over their hostages without conditions or the military would continue its offensive.

"There will never be any negotiation with Sabaya's group. The military's stand is firm. As per order of the President, nothing is negotiable right now," he said.

Esperon said Sabaya's "only option was to fight, and we will eliminate him."

Col. Renato Miranda, commander of the 2nd Marine Brigade, and Brig. Gen. Glicerio Sua, head of Task Force Comet, said Sabaya had sent them the same letter seeking a halt to the military offensive.

AFP/ A5

THE HARDER they fall: Alih Malabon, with a P1-million reward on his head, is killed after an encounter with government troops in Isabela, Basilan, on Wednesday night. VAL HANDUMON

Bombing suspect told tall tales– PNP intel

By Luige A. Del Puerto
Contributor

ONLY 80 percent of what a suspect in Sunday's Zamboanga City bombing had told investigators is true, according to a top police intelligence officer.

The Philippine National Police and Armed Forces of the Philippines, however, are taking no chances.

The military yesterday placed its forces on alert and beefed up security in government installations and malls following reports that the Abu Sayyaf was planning terrorist attacks in Metro Manila.

The military declared a "blue alert," its second level-of-readiness, despite doubts raised on the confession of Marvin Geonzon, one of the suspects in the Zamboanga City bombing that killed five people and injured 50 others.

"We have assessed what he has disclosed, and we believe 80 percent of what he has disclosed," said Director Robert Delfin, head of the PNP Intelligence Group.

Geonzon, aka Adbulmalik bin Geonzon, and Rodel Ladera, another suspected Abu Sayyaf terrorist, were presented to the media in Camp Crame yesterday.

Geonzon, 27, allegedly admitted assembling the bomb that exploded at a Zamboanga City food plaza on Sunday, while Ladera allegedly admitted planting the bomb.

Officials earlier said Geonzon was a member of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network, but they

BOMBING/ A5

'As we light candles and pray for eternal peace'

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday led the nation in honoring the dead and urged the public to include in their prayers the 5,000 people who died in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

Ms Macapagal later visited the tomb of her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio before taking off for a weekend vacation in Baguio City.

"As we light our candles and pray for the eternal peace of our loved ones, I call upon all of you to include in your prayers all Filipinos, especially those who perished in the recent attacks in the United States," she said.

"Let us be one in the hope that no more innocent lives will be victimized by senseless violence all over the world."

But Ms Macapagal's call for solemnity largely fell on deaf ears. Police said they had confiscated ice picks, fan knives and arrested at least two men who were in a drunken stupor.

Many brought along portable cassette players and karaoke machines at Manila's South Cemetery, but were reprimanded for playing them too loudly.

"We prohibit people from blasting music that could disturb some people," Supt. Ramon de Jesus said in a television interview. "You cannot bring pointed objects, bladed weapons, alcohol and cards for gambling."

Filipinos marked All Saints' Day across the

AS WE/ A13

GMA off to Baguio for 'very, very low-key holiday'-with family

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
and Carlito Pablo

BAGUIO CITY—On an unannounced three-day break from Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday enjoyed a quiet and traffic-free All Saints' Day in this mountain haven.

"She is spending a very, very, very low-key holiday weekend here with her whole family, including (First Gentleman Jose Miguel) Arroyo, and will be flying straight to Brunei from their vacation here," a government source told the Inquirer.

She arrived in Baguio at noon after visiting the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City, where the remains of her father, former President Diosdado Macapagal, and her mother, Evangelina, are buried.

Except for the presence of the Presidential Security Group, her arrival hardly drew public

GMA/ A13

PALACE RETORT

Tiglao: Facts, not coup rumors

By Carlito Pablo
and Christian V. Esguerra

UNDERSTATEMENTS made up the analysis of the Strategic Forecasting Inc. (Stratfor) regarding the coup rumors and President Macapagal-Arroyo's performance, Malacañang said yesterday.

Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for the President, said it was "facts," and not coup rumors, that should be taken seriously, and cited results of a Pulse Asia Inc. survey *(Story below)* showing her improved approval rating despite "an all-out opposition campaign" against her.

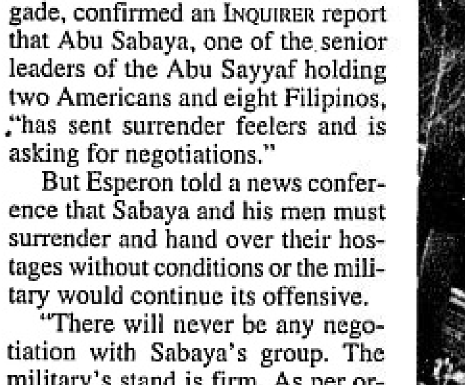
Tiglao likewise said the President was cutting a figure in the international scene as a respected leader in Asia.

But according to the latest survey conducted by the Ibon Databank and Research Center, the President is losing the support of Metro Manila residents.

Ibon research director Antonio Tujan said in a statement that a growing "dissatisfaction with the worsening economic situation" brought about the President's plunging net approval rating in the metropolis.

Tiglao described as "a bit of an understatement" Stratfor's point that Ms Macapagal's presidency was secure because there was no strong contender to assume leadership in her place.

TIGLAO/ A13



Marijuana joint opens in Vancouver

VANCOUVER—People granted the right by the Canadian government to smoke marijuana for medicinal purposes now have a public place for puffing after the Marijuana Teahouse opened its doors here on Wednesday.

MARIJUANA/ A5

Filipinos doubt coup plot reports, says Pulse Asia poll

Strong reservations on military noted

By Fe B. Zamora
INQ7.net

MANY FILIPINOS do not believe the Armed Forces is plotting the overthrow of President Macapagal-Arroyo, but a large number is unsure about the plans of the military, according to a recent Pulse Asia survey.

Many Filipinos also believe the Armed Forces could be relied upon to defend Ms Macapagal in the event of a coup attempt, but a large number doubt how the military would react to an actual attempt to unseat the President. A majority, however, agree that martial law is not the solution to the problems facing the nation, the survey showed.

Even with the public's doubts about the military, any coup attempt would still fail because the present political, economic and psychological state of Filipinos would not allow a coup to prosper, according to Prof. Felipe Miranda, Pulse Asia Inc. research director.

Ms Macapagal, who as vice president was swept into office in a military-backed popular uprising in January, continues to enjoy a high trust rating of 63 percent nationwide, according to the survey conducted from Sept. 22 to Oct. 4.

"Any attempt to unseat her will not have the support of the public. And even if (a coup plot) succeeds initially, a sizable portion of the population would still resist it," Miranda told INQ7.net.

Pulse Asia conducted the survey weeks be-

FILIPINOS/ A13

EDWIN BACASMAS

THREE-DAY break for the President (with Mr. Mike Arroyo and youngest son, Diosdado Ignacio) starts with prayers at the gravesite of her father, President Diosdado Macapagal, at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

SIYA NAMAN PALA ANG KUMIMBINSE, E!

Drug problem getting grimmer, records show

By Juliet L. Javellana

STATISTICS on illegal drug use in the country become grimmer each year.

Official police records peg the number of drug-addicted Filipinos at 9.5 million, 4.5 million of whom are considered "habitual users" and five million who are occasional users. There are now approximately 77 million Filipinos.

Other estimates say the illegal drug trade has become a P200-billion annual business, which is about one-fourth of the proposed national budget for next year.

The gains against the illegal drug trade appear to be so small that Rep. Antonio Cuenco, chair of the House committee on dangerous drugs, has called for a police revamp and the lowering of the amount of drugs seized for the imposition of the death penalty.

Cuenco said the latest data from the PNP's National Drug Enforcement and Prevention Center showed that some 100,000 drug dealers or pushers have been arrested nationwide and 80,000 cases have been filed in court this year.

Of the cases filed, however, only 800 have resulted in convictions, for a conviction rate of one percent, most of them of the small fry, Cuenco said.

"Why? Number one, the police lack the intensity (to do their job) because they are either protectors of or are in cahoots with these merchants of death," Cuenco said in an interview.

He said there is a need to overhaul the antinarcotics group in the PNP to put policemen with good records in charge of enforcing the laws against illegal drugs.

"They are simply not doing their jobs," Cuenco reiterated, of the bad eggs in the PNP.

Cuenco said there may also be some defects in the laws.

A bill is pending in his committee, he said, to lower from 200 to 15 grams the quantity of drugs seized to merit life imprisonment or the death penalty.

Cuenco said he is urging President Macapagal-Arroyo to certify the bill as urgent to secure its passage.

He said the bill would amend the Dangerous Drugs Act, which had specified the penalties for varying amounts of drug possession.

Cuenco said the fight against illegal drugs requires political will in all levels of government.

"And the intensity should start from the President," he added. "We are losing the (drug) war and we are truly alarmed."

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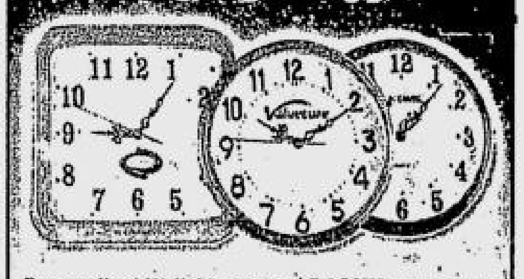
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Bribe scandal: Probers find Belmonte liable

By Michael Lim Ubac

BELMONTE

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman has found probable cause to indict former Speaker Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte, now mayor of Quezon City, in connection with the telecommunications scandal that had embroiled First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

The Ombudsman fact-finding and investigation bureau (FFIB) said it was Belmonte, and not the First Gentleman, who had "acted to persuade, induce or influence" President Macapagal-Arroyo into recalling her veto of two telecoms franchise bills in two letters he had written the President, specifically asking her to reconsider the vetoes.

Belmonte has said that he wrote the letters as "a ministerial accommodation to a request from congressmen," according to the FFIB report.

The report contradicted allegations made by members of the opposition that it was Mr. Arroyo and three others who took a hefty bribe (P40 million) to work for the recall of the vetoed bills.

'Favored' firms

The bills would have greatly favored two local telecommunications firms—Philippine Communications Clearing-house Inc. (PCCI) and APC Wireless Interface Network Inc. (APC)—by granting them exclusive rights to the airwaves and equipment, respectively, over the phone companies.

In a 16-page report, FFIB Director Gerardo Lantoria Jr. urged Ombudsman Aniano Desierto to file charges against Belmonte and Malou Nuñez, former consultant of the Department of Transportation and Communications, "for violation of the (following) criminal and administrative laws."

Lantoria recommended the filing of graft charges against Belmonte while Nuñez should be indicted for gross misconduct and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service.

The FFIB cleared Veronica "Bing" Rodrigo, former correspondence secretary and close friend of the President, and Gabriel Claudio, presidential legislative liaison officer.

The FFIB said the Belmonte letters made it appear that the request to recall the Presidential vetoes "was an official act of the Office of the Speaker."

It stressed that the "relevant law or rule does not allow a recall of a veto by the President" and the request itself clearly "induced the President to commit an act which is unconstitutional, hence illegal."

Ombudsman probe

Lantoria said the charges were based on the investigation conducted by the FFIB panel composed of Ombudsman graft investigators Ferdinand San Joaquin, Luisito Suarez and Roy Roque D.A. Dator.

Desierto has yet to act on the recommendations. Under the law, the Ombudsman may uphold or reverse the findings of his subordinates.

The investigation report was signed by Lantoria on Oct. 15, but it was kept under wraps. The INQUIRER, however, managed to obtain a copy.

In the report, the panel said it learned that Belmonte had sent two letters to President Macapagal "requesting that the presidential veto of House Bills No. 12671 (for PCCI) and 12672 (for APC) be recalled and reconsidered."

The two letters were received by the Office of the President on April 19 and 28, this year, according to the Malacañang Palace records division.

"It was written on what appeared to be his official stationery, his signature appearing over his computer-printed name," said the report.

Authentic letters

The report said research was conducted to verify the authenticity of the letters.

"His (Belmonte's) former letter-writer attested to certain discrepancies showing that the letters did not originate from the speaker's office at the Legislature. Still, he could not rule out the possibility that the speaker may have signed the letters in his district office or someplace else," the panel said.

Lawyer Gracela Andres, Belmonte's former chief of staff, said she checked the speaker's logbook, "which revealed the absence of any reference whatsoever to the said letters."

It was Claudio who helped graft probers ascertain the authenticity of the letters.

In a sworn statement, Claudio said Belmonte "admitted to having signed the letters to accommodate a request from congressmen."

Belmonte, however, advised Claudio "not to pay attention to them or act on the request."

The INQUIRER yesterday tried but failed to reach Belmonte.

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Drilon files bill on dual citizenship

By C. Balana

SENATE President Franklin Drilon has filed a bill that would allow dual citizenship for Filipinos who have acquired foreign citizenship.

Senate Bill No. 1354 seeks to amend the 65-year-old law on Philippine citizenship which provides that natural-born Filipinos who become naturalized citizens of another country automatically lose their Philippine citizenship.

"It is now time to reexamine the efficacy, if not the fairness, of the present law on citizenship and its place in what is rapidly becoming a borderless world," he said.

Drilon said that 89 countries allow some form of dual/multiple citizenship, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Switzerland, Germany, Ireland, Russia, Cambodia, Taiwan, Vietnam and 14 out of 17 Latin American nations.

He stressed that even such staunchly nationalistic countries like Israel and Cuba allow their citizens to retain their citizenship after being naturalized in another country.

The grant of dual citizenship, the senator said, would encourage more overseas Filipinos to invest in the country and visit here more often.

It would also perk up tourism and work here and thus enhance technology transfer, he added.

Drilon also said that Philippine laws should take cognizance of the fact that majority of Filipinos who migrated abroad did so for better opportunities for themselves and their children.

"And those who became citizens of their adopted country have done so mainly for economic reasons, or for broadening career opportunities, or maximizing their social security and protection," Drilon pointed out.

He said that despite their acquisition of foreign citizenships, these Filipinos maintain their allegiance to the Philippines and continue to maintain their links to their homeland.

They also continue to show a keen interest in Philippine affairs and deep concern for the country.

"At every opportunity, they come to visit family and friends and make valuable contributions to the national economy through investments or by sharing their material wealth with their relatives," Drilon said.

"There is no doubt that the vast majority of our erstwhile countrymen remain Filipinos in their heart and mind," he added.

If enacted into law, natural-born Filipinos who are naturalized citizens of another country will automatically reacquire their Philippine citizenship.

They shall also continue to enjoy full civil and political rights, including the right of suffrage and to seek an elective post provided they meet all legal requirements.

But there are certain provisions in the bill that would bar one from reacquiring Philippine citizenship. These were

- If he/she has renounced under oath his Philippine citizenship. The act of taking an oath of allegiance required by a foreign country for purposes of naturalization is not a bar to the reacquisition of Philippine citizenship.
- If he/she became a candidate or was elected to any public office in a foreign country.
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Imelda can still buy back seized jewels

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

WHAT could prevent the Marcoses from buying back a prized jewelry collection believed to be part of their fabled ill-gotten wealth?

Nothing. Certainly not the Bureau of Customs which has declared that it would allow former first lady Imelda Marcos and her family to bid for the $13-million Roumeliotes collection in a public auction the government is preparing to hold.

Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva said the BoC would not stop the Marcoses from bidding for the Roumeliotes pieces, which were seized from Demetriou Roumeliotes, a Greek believed to be a close friend of Mrs. Marcos, about one week after the 1986 Edsa revolt that drove the Marcoses from power.

The valuables were confiscated from Roumeliotes at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport when he could not show the proper documents.

However, Roumeliotes is recognized as the owner of the jewelry in official proceedings, Villanueva said.

Villanueva stressed the Roumeliotes collection is "not part" of the Marcoses' ill-gotten wealth, which the state has been trying to recover and return to the national coffers.

The collection though, is said to be the most valuable of all the gem sets seized from the Marcoses or any of their alleged fronts since 1986.

"Why should we stop the Marcoses if the price is right? Why should we exclude them?" Villanueva asked in an earlier interview. "It's a public bidding, so it's open to all."

The BoC chief said he did not agree to auction the other Marcos gem pieces now with the Presidential Commission on Good Government together with the Roumeliotes collection because he "did not want the Roumeliotes set to be linked in any way to the Marcos jewelry."

The PCGG had tried to sell the Marcoses' jewelry, including the Roumeliotes collection, in 1994 but failed to work out the terms of the bidding with international auctioneers Christie's of New York and Sotheby's of London.

Villanueva said the President wants the BoC to speed up the disposal of the assets to generate much-needed revenue for the government, but the Department of Justice has yet to decide on issues concerning the auction.

The PCGG and BoC had agreed to let the DOJ decide where the auction will be held, whether here or abroad, and which auctioneer will conduct the proceedings.

"The PCGG is different from the BoC," Villanueva said. "The PCGG's mandate is to go after the property of the Marcoses; Customs' is to seize commodities that violate the Tariff and Customs Code."

"They say they don't want the Marcoses in the bidding, but what can prevent the Marcoses from getting the jewelry? They can always send dummies," Villanueva said.

He said he would ask the DOJ to settle the issues concerning the auction quickly so the BoC could set the terms and conditions for the sale of the Roumeliotes collection."

Coco levy deal with Danding hit

BY TJ BURGONIO

A MILITANT fishermen's group has scored the administration for its willingness to strike an out-of-court settlement with businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco over the P100-billion coconut levy fund.

Pamalakaya said the planned compromise with Cojuangco, a crony of deposed President Joseph Estrada, would "betray the public trust and reverse the historical verdict against the former president and his cohorts."

"President Macapagal-Arroyo is awarding a multitude of political concessions to the Estrada camp and her government has found the disputed billions in coconut levy funds to be a grand prize to please the kingpin of the rival camp," said Pamalakaya spokesperson Gerry Albert Corpuz in a statement.

Cojuangco was Estrada's running mate in the 1998 presidential election. He lost to the administration candidate, Ms Macapagal.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said on Wednesday the President wanted the coconut levy dispute finally settled and she was willing to forge a deal with Cojuangco for the sake of the coconut farmers.

"The President wants the coco levy case resolved considering the huge amount of funds locked up, which should have been used for the rehabilitation of the coconut industry as early as 1981," Tiglao said.

Pamalakaya, however, said it believes the President's real intention in forging the settlement is political.

"This is part of the plan to accommodate the rich and powerful allies of ousted President Estrada in a vain attempt to keep the Macapagal administration away from the perilous attacks of the rival camp," Corpuz said.

Roco to schools: Respect students' religious rights

BY DONNA S. CUETO

ROCO

EDUCATION Secretary Raul Roco has ordered all schools nationwide to be sensitive to religious rights of their students, particularly Muslims.

Roco's Department Order No. 51 was in response to the observation of the National Youth Commission that Muslim students attending schools were having difficulty obeying school policies and practices that infringe on their religious rights.

In the case of Muslim students, Roco said that these policies should be adopted.

First, female Muslim schoolchildren should be allowed to use their veil or headdress (hijab) inside the school campus.

Second, in physical education classes, Muslim girls shall not be required to wear shorts. They shall be allowed to wear appropriate clothing in accordance with their religious beliefs.

Roco said all schools must ensure that their policies are sensitive to the religious rights of students.

"All schools should strive to protect and strengthen the constitutional guarantee on the rights of citizens to freedom of religion and nondiscrimination on the basis of sex, religion, creed or color," Roco said.

In Department Order No. 51, Roco directed all schools both public and private to review their policies so that the religious rights of students are protected and strengthened.

TB cases still high, says DOH

BY A. NOCUM

CASES of tuberculosis continue to remain high in the country due to rising poverty and lack of proper hygiene among Filipinos, the Department of Health said.

To arrest the continuing spread of the disease, the DOH said the government will be spending P200 million in medicines to treat an average of 200,000 Filipinos found to be "sputum positive" for the disease annually.

"We have committed money to make anti-TB medicines available for people that are sputum positive," Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit told reporters in a recent interview.

He explained that the "availability of the medicines" is the "biggest component of TB control."

Dayrit, who recently attended an anti-TB conference in the US, said the program is a "big-step" toward fighting what is known here as the poor man's disease

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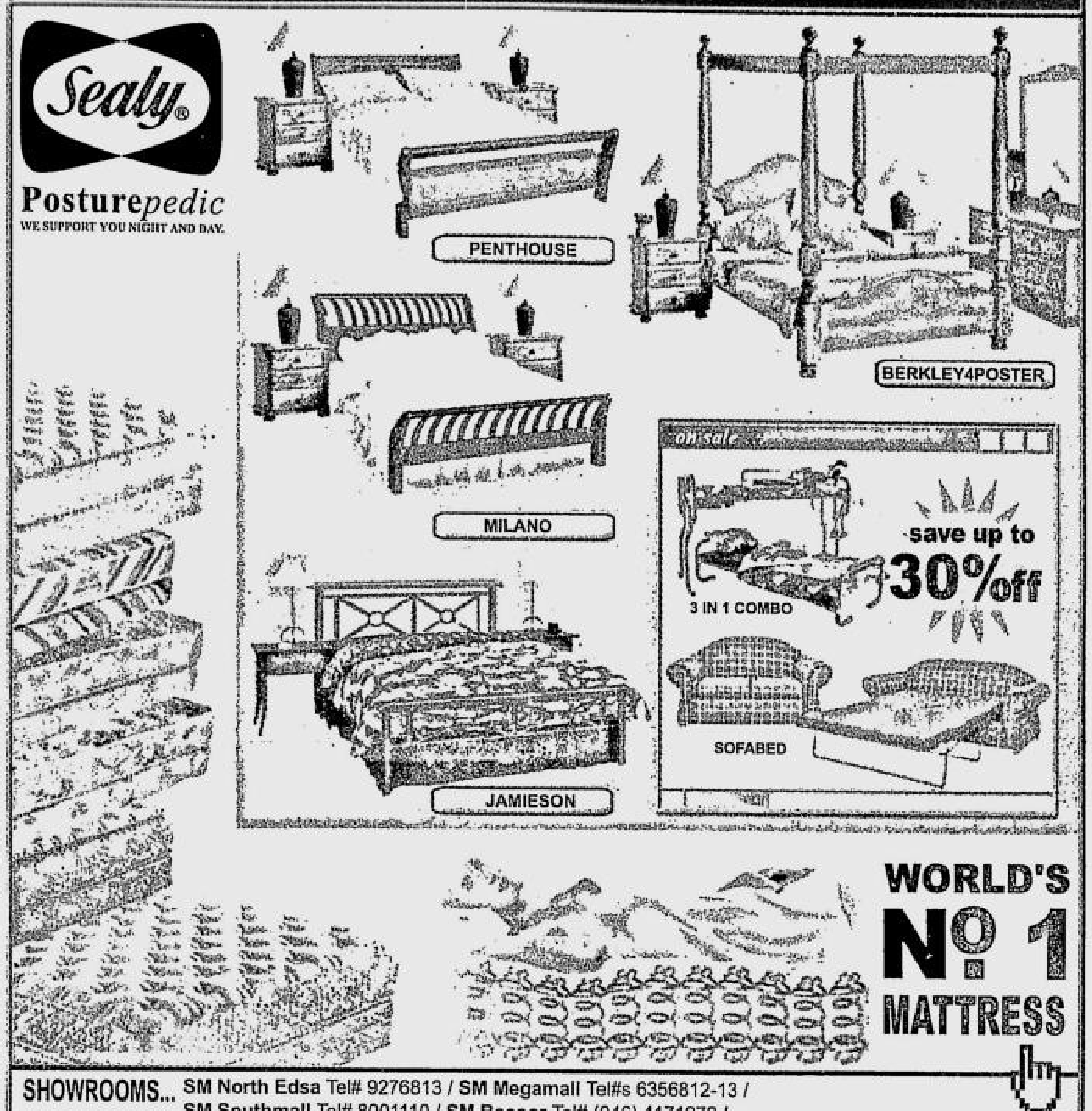

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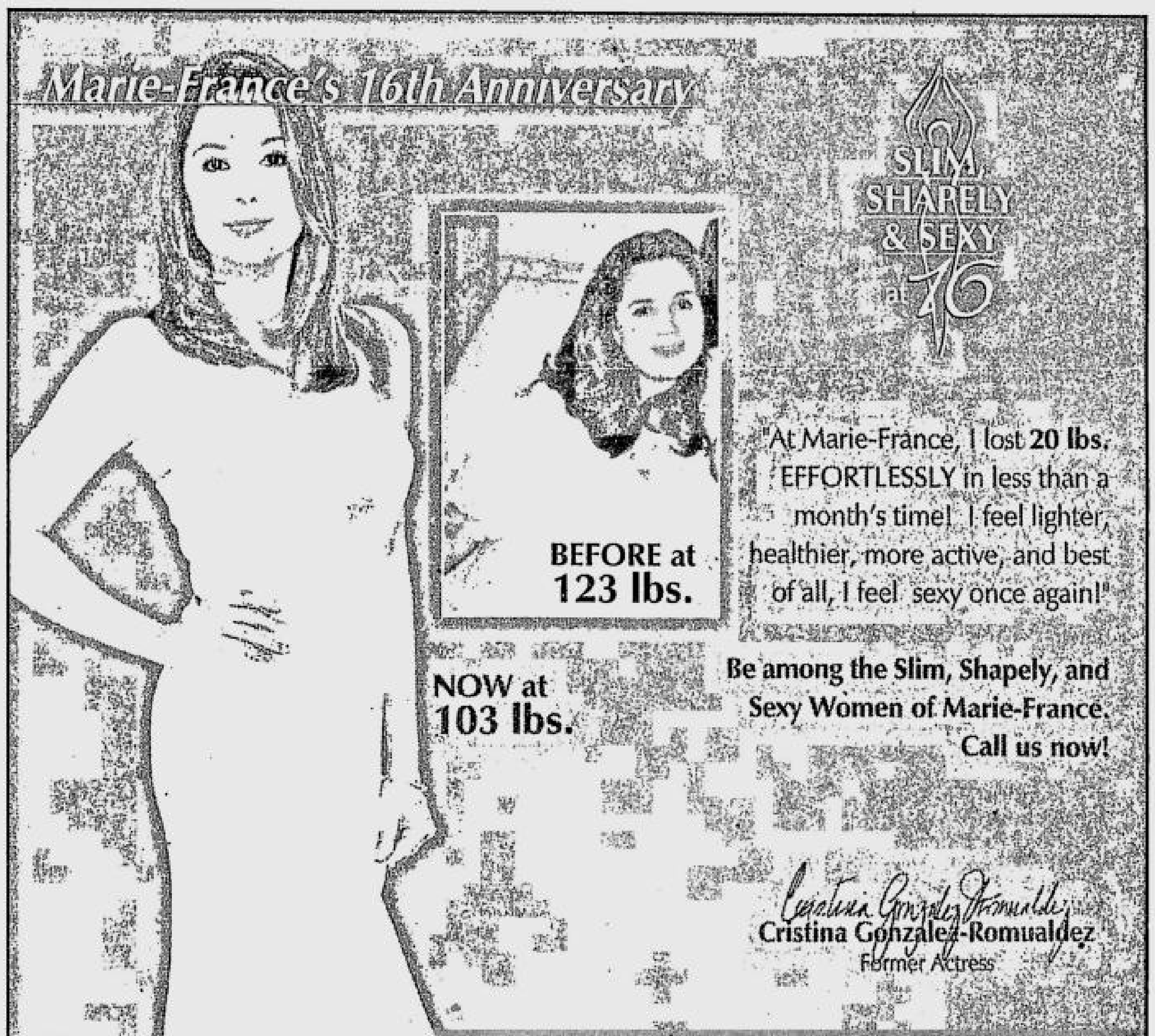
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RP eyes joint Spratlys development

THE PHILIPPINES is keen on jointly developing the disputed Spratly Islands with China, but will also push for a code of conduct covering the area, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

Ms Macapagal, who returned late Wednesday after a three-day state visit to China, said Chinese President Jiang Zemin agreed there should be no "provocative action" in the area.

"We are at the forefront of developing a consensus in the regional code of conduct on the south China Sea," Ms Macapagal told reporters upon arrival, transcripts of which were released yesterday.

China is asking all claimants to work toward "joint development" of the Spratlys, a chain of atolls and islets also being claimed by Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam.

The Philippines is "awaiting the modalities. The specific project proposals."

"I want to move forward and talk about some specific project proposals," she said.

She stressed a code of conduct among all claimants to the Spratlys, "does not preclude joint development" of the potentially oil-rich islands.

"One of the things that we might look at, and this is very preliminary, is maybe look at our position (on) cooperation in marine preservation and matters like that of protecting the environment," the President said.

Ms Macapagal said that historically the Philippines and China enjoyed close cooperation in the areas of trade and culture, and the Spratlys issue should not spoil good bilateral relations. *AFP*

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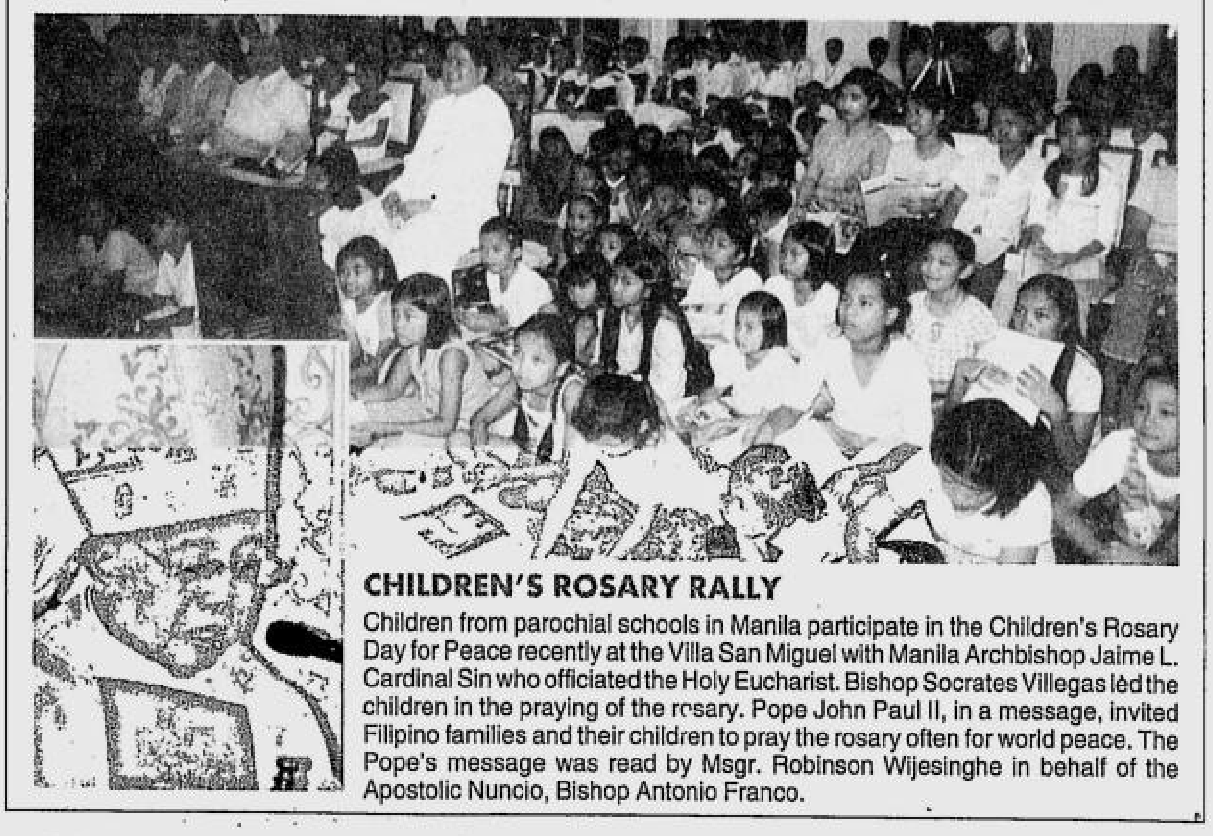

CHILDREN'S ROSARY RALLY

Children from parochial schools in Manila participate in the Children's Rosary Day for Peace recently at the Villa San Miguel with Manila Archbishop Jaime L. Cardinal Sin who officiated the Holy Eucharist. Bishop Socrates Villegas led the children in the praying of the rosary. Pope John Paul II, in a message, invited Filipino families and their children to pray the rosary often for world peace. The Pope's message was read by Msgr. Robinson Wijesinghe in behalf of the Apostolic Nuncio, Bishop Antonio Franco.

Gloria names 3 realities guiding RP foreign policy

By Carlito Pablo

BEIJING (via PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo has identified three world "realities" which she said serves as guide posts for her foreign affairs policy.

"The first one is that Japan, China and the United States and their relationship to each other will play the determining influence with regards to security and economic developments in our part of the world," President Macapagal said in a press conference here.

"The second reality is that more and more, our foreign policy decisions will have to be made in the context of Asean," Ms Macapagal said referring to the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

"A third reality is that the Organization of Islamic Conference plays a major role in the Philippines and in helping us to make peace with our Muslim brothers in the Philippines," the President said.

Since assuming power on Jan. 20, President Macapagal has visited Malaysia and Brunei, two of Asean members, which also belong to the OIC.

The OIC, as an organization and through some of its members, has played a major role in brokering peace between the Philippine government and secessionist Muslim rebels in Mindanao.

The President had also gone on a working visit to Japan.

Ms Macapagal has held bilateral talks here with her counterpart Jiang Zemin as the high point of her Oct. 29-31 state visit to China.

On Nov. 4, the President will fly to Brunei to attend an Asean summit where Asean leaders are expected to issue a statement against terrorism.

She is set to meet US President George Bush at the White House on Nov. 20.

President Macapagal also said that in addition to these geo-political realities, overseas Filipino workers will also be a major consideration in foreign policy.

"In the next several years, their remittances will continue to be important to our economic development," the President said.

There are about 7 million OFWs scattered around the world, remitting to their families a significant $7 billion a year.

"Therefore they are a major clientele of our foreign policy and foreign service," President Macapagal said.

The President also said tourism will likewise be a major concern of the country's international diplomatic initiatives.

Blaine Lee to lecture on power principle

POWER centered on principle is the subject of a series of talks and workshops to be conducted on Nov. 5-9 by Blaine Lee, one of Covey Leadership Center's founding vice presidents and currently one of Franklin Covey's top-rate consultants.

These events are organized by the Center for Leadership and Change Inc. (CLCI), authorized distributor of Franklin Covey Co. products and services.

Lee's main event is a workshop on "The Power Principle: Influence with Honor" on Nov. 6 at the Dusit Hotel. He will conduct a certification course on Nov. 7 and 9 for select FCC/CLCI facilitators.

Lee will also hold a CEO forum on effective leadership for the Management Association of the Philippines on Nov. 5 starting at noon until 4 p.m. at the Hotel Inter-Continental. He will speak on power and governance at the Ateneo Professional Schools in Rockwell, Makati, at 5-7 p.m.

On Nov. 8, Lee will deliver the keynote address at the Asia-Pacific Congress and Training of Women and Men in Media, and Women in Politics, Governance and Decision-making on Transformative Leadership, after which he will have a press conference with members of the media. This conference is organized by the Center for Asia-Pacific Women in Politics and Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility.

On the same day at 5-8 p.m., he will hold a workshop presentation with interested members of these two organizations. In between sessions, he will hold an exclusive presentation for the top management of the Yuchengco group of companies.

For inquiries, call CLCI at 817-2726 ext. 125, 126, 127 and 132, or e-mail clci@skyinet.net.

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1st Reading:	**Dan 12:1-3 or Is 25:6, 7-8**
2nd Reading:	**Rom 6:3-9 or 6:3-4, 8-9**
Gospel:	**Jn 6:37-40**

Jesus said to the crowd, "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me, I shall not turn away. For I have come from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of the One who sent me.

And the will of him who sent me is that I lose nothing of what he has given me, but instead that I raise it up on the last day. This is the will of the Father, that whoever sees the Son and believes in him shall live with eternal life; and I will raise him up on the last day."

Commentary

"It's God's will," "God wants it." We have many times defended with these or other similar phrases what were only tradition or simply our own will. With these words the worse attrocities were justified. It is true that we come to know the Father only through Jesus. And in the life and words of Jesus the Father reveals himself as the one who desires our salvation out of pure love. Simply because God is life and loves life. He does not want anybody's death but life in all its fullness. We find in Jesus the best witness to the Father's love. That's why those who see the Son see the Father. And in the Son we find the fountain of life.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Inconsistencies between sworn statements and testimonies—With respect to the contradictions between the sworn statements and the testimonies in court, it has been observed that such testimonies are oftentimes due to the fact that affidavits are generally not prepared by the affiants themselves but by others, like police investigators, and are only signed by the affiants. In any event, the witnesses should have been shown their prior inconsistent statements and given a chance to explain themselves, as required by Rule 132, Section 13. This was not done in this case. The witnesses were never confronted during the trial with the alleged inconsistencies between their affidavits and their testimonies and asked to explain them. It is only now on appeal that the question is raised. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, People v. Añazan, G.R. Nos. 136251, 138606 and 138607, January 16, 2001]

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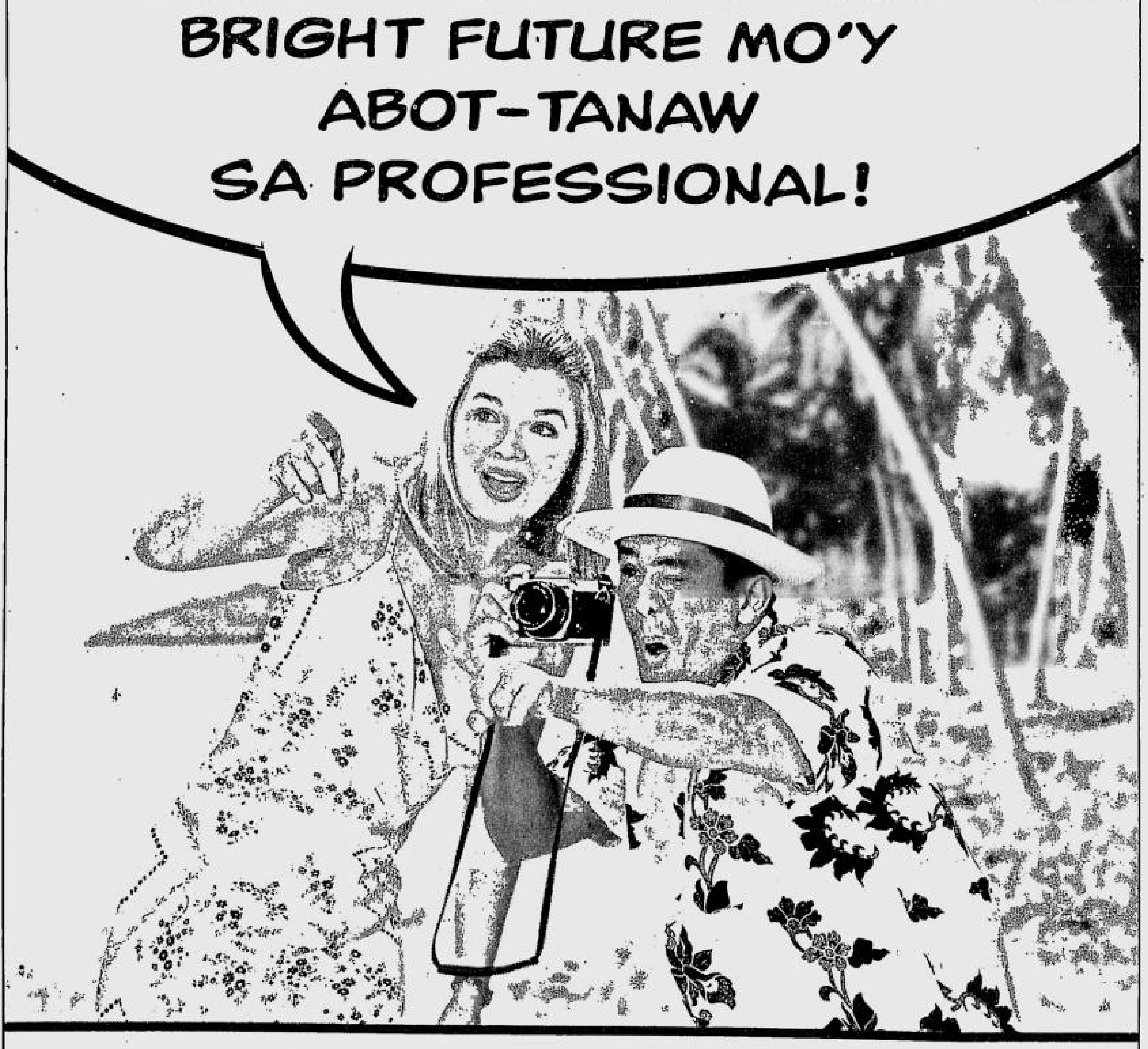
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Poll says Metro folk oppose US bombings

BY CHRISTIAN ESGUERRA

AN OVERWHELMING number of Metro Manila residents want the United States-led attacks on Afghanistan to end soon to save the Philippines from economic disaster, according to the latest survey by Ibon Foundation.

The survey conducted among 350 respondents from Oct. 1 to 27 showed that 82.9 percent believe that the current economic crisis would only worsen if US and British forces continued to bomb Taliban positions in Afghanistan.

Majority of the respondents, 50.3 percent, also said the attacks on Afghanistan were not justified, while 39.4 percent supported the military operations, which, US officials said, were aimed at smoking out Osama bin Laden, the suspected mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

The same survey also showed that 72.9 percent of Metro Manila residents did not want the Macapagal administration to deploy troops in the global military campaign against terrorism. Only 22 percent favored the move.

The objection came even as the President threw her full support behind the US-led international coalition against terrorism.

Malacañang is drafting a declaration backing the global war on terrorism, which would be signed in next week's summit in Brunei of Southeast Asian nations plus Japan, China and South Korea.

The Palace had previously allowed US and other foreign aircraft participating in the anti-terrorist campaign to use the country's airspace and facilities.

AFP rejects Abu offer for talks

(From page A1)

Miranda and Sua said military operations would continue despite efforts by a "third party" to secure the release of the American couple. They did not elaborate.

Sabaya is holding American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham, both of Wichita, Kansas, and eight coconut farmers in the jungles of Basilan.

Sabaya earlier beheaded American Guillermo Sobero of Corona, California, to stop the advance of government troops. His remains were recovered last month.

Sobero was kidnapped along with the Burnhams and 17 other Filipinos on May 27 from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan.

The coconut farmers were kidnapped in recent months in Basilan, reportedly to be used as forced labor by the bandits.

Washington has classified the Abu Sayyaf as a terrorist group with links to Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect behind the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States. Manila, however, has dismissed the Abu Sayyaf as a bandit group.

Sabaya's offer to negotiate came as 23 US military experts wrapped up their visit to Western Mindanao to assess and advise local troops in their fight against the Abu Sayyaf.

The US team has handed over several bloodhounds to help Filipino troops track down the Basilan bandits.

But even without the bloodhounds, the military appeared to be making headway in their campaign.

New clashes

At dawn Thursday, soldiers clashed with an Abu Sayyaf unit in a hinterland village in Tipo Tipo town and killed at least five bandits.

"Initial reports said at least five were killed, but the death toll could be higher because radio intercepts indicated more gunmen have been wounded in the fighting," Col. Roland Detabali said.

Soldiers recovered rifles and backpacks left behind by the bandits.

Two close aides of Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani were killed Wednesday night when soldiers raided an Abu Sayyaf hideout in a remote village near Lantawan town.

Esperon said the government had offered a P1-million reward for Alih Malabon and P150,000 for Jaafar Alfa.

Sua said two Abu Sayyaf commanders operating in Basilan and Zamboanga were also arrested on Oct. 30.

He said Ibrahim Rasul, of Barangay Carbon on Malamawi Island, and Omar Sahibol, of Talipao, Sulu, were undergoing interrogation.

Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, Armed Forces chief of staff, said the US advisers were "fully satisfied" with how the military was conducting its offensive in Basilan.

The US advisers yesterday met with Villanueva in Camp Aguinaldo. They are expected to report their findings to Admiral Dennis Blair, commander of the US forces in the Pacific.

Villanueva said he expected the US advisers to recommend additional aid to beef up the Philippine military hardware, particularly "helicopters, night vision and other high-tech gadgets." *With reports from Martin P. Marfil, AP and AFP*

Bombing suspect told tall tales, says PNP intel chief

(From page A1)

later said he was only a member of the local Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

In a talk with reporters yesterday, President Macapagal-Arroyo also voiced doubts about Geonzon's alleged connections with the al-Qaida.

Delfin said Geonzon had also recanted his earlier statement that he was a biochemistry student of the University of the Philippines.

Delfin said Geonzon, who was arrested a day after the Zamboanga City bombing, had confessed that he only finished Grade III.

The PNP intelligence chief declined to say Geonzon's other statements that he had found incredible.

During tactical interrogation, Geonzon also admitted that he assembled and planted the bombs at the Imperial Hotel, Paradise Hotel, and Platinum in Zamboanga City on Oct. 8. Two of the bombs exploded but caused little damage.

Geonzon also said his group had planned to bomb major cities in Mindanao as well as Metro Manila and Metro Cebu.

PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza said he had deployed investigators to check the targets that Geonzon had mentioned would be bombed.

Delfin said a background check showed that Geonzon was a Christian before he converted to Islam in 1997, the same year he was recruited into the Abu Sayyaf.

Delfin said the Abu Sayyaf bandits used money to lure Geonzon into joining their group. He said Geonzon had disclosed the Abu Sayyaf had promised to pay him P80,000 for "his services."

According to Delfin, Geonzon was once a drug addict who underwent rehabilitation.

He said it was at a rehab center where Geonzon was recruited by a certain "Mohammed."

Delfin said his men were trying to locate Geonzon's mother who might be able to shed light about her son.

Contingency measures

Whatever, the military has drawn up security measures to guard government installations and other public places.

"Contingency measures are in place," Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, Armed Forces chief of staff, told defense reporters.

"We're coordinating with the Philippine National Police and other government law enforcement agencies to thwart any attempt to sabotage government installations and crowded places like malls," Villanueva added.

Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta said the declaration of a "blue alert" placed half of the AFP forces on alert while the other half could go on leave but remain "on call."

"The bulk of our forces are on high alert although some of our soldiers were given leaves for the holidays," Mabanta said.

Mendoza and Interior Secretary Joey Lina said that security had been beefed up in Metro Manila and other possible terrorist targets based on Geonzon's confession.

The two, however, declined to give details so as not to unduly alarm the public.

Officials said two other suspects in the Zamboanga City bombing were being hunted. A third suspect is being held in the port city.

Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, AFP deputy chief of staff, said the arrest of the two bombing suspects had disrupted the terrorist plans of the Abu Sayyaf.

Officials said Sunday's bombing was intended to divert the military from its ongoing offensive against the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan. *With reports from Martin P. Marfil and Cathy C. Yamsuan*

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4th US anthrax . . .

(From page A1)

outbreak of anthrax since the Sept. 11 attacks might be more widespread than originally thought.

One of Nguyen's co-workers underwent tests for a suspicious skin lesion. Results of those tests were not yet known.

In New Jersey, another postal worker was suspected of having skin anthrax.

In Kansas City, Missouri, anthrax spores were found at a post office that handled mail from Washington. No postal worker has shown signs of anthrax infection.

The US Embassy in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius found traces of what appeared to be anthrax in two mailbags. Traces have already been found at two mailrooms in the state department building and in a pouch sent to Peru.

In all, US officials have tallied 17 cases of anthrax. The first confirmed diagnosis was on Oct. 4. There have been 10 cases of the inhalation form of the disease, including four deaths, and seven cases of the less dangerous skin type. Tens of thousands of other people, many of them postal workers, are taking antibiotics.

White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer said tests at Nguyen's home in the Bronx and at the Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, where she worked, had so far proved negative for anthrax.

Nguyen worked in a basement supply room that had recently included a mailroom, but there were no reports of suspicious letters or other obvious cause for alarm.

She became ill last Thursday and was confirmed with inhalation anthrax only on Tuesday. But by then, she was fighting for her life in the hospital.

Soft spoken

For over 20 years, Nguyen lived in a decrepit Bronx neighborhood. She wore nice hats on her neatly cropped hair, was soft-spoken and would not have left a lasting impression in her neighborhood if she had not died of inhalation anthrax on Wednesday.

After the fall of Saigon in 1975, Nguyen left Vietnam for the United States, where she lived in relative solitude for over 20 years.

There is no family member to tell of Nguyen's story. Her apartment lies silent and authorities are tracing her path to find how she contracted the potential germ warfare agent.

"I think God took her away because she was so lonely," said Nguyen's next-door neighbor, Jenny Espranal, who knew her for more than 10 years.

"She told me that she lost almost all of her family in Vietnam and then her son died overseas," Espranal said.

"She was a beautiful person," she said.

Jose Ramos was another neighbor but he spoke Spanish and so shared few words with Nguyen. He saw her for years at the laundromat down the street from her apartment.

"She was very friendly. This whole thing is crazy," Ramos said.

Solving puzzle

On Tuesday morning, biohazard workers stormed into Nguyen's neighborhood for environmental testing as they tried to put the pieces together to solve the puzzle of her anthrax infection.

"I haven't seen her for a few weeks," said a clerk at Freeman Grocery down the street from Nguyen's apartment. "She was quiet, friendly and she would come in here to buy a sandwich after coming back from work."

"If she could die from anthrax, then it could be anybody," he said.

Nguyen worked late and spent her free time shopping, often visiting New York department stores like Macy's.

Nguyen was known as Kathy among the few Hispanic women with whom she chatted. She would sometimes ask them for help understanding letters she received and she would take Vietnamese delicacies to their homes because she always seemed to cook more than she could eat alone.

Nguyen apparently moved to her apartment in the Bronx in 1980. She owned a bar in Vietnam before she left with little more than the clothes on her back.

She married an American and had a son. The marriage ended in divorce and the son died several years ago in a car crash.

In the end, Nguyen had fled Vietnam only to die in solitude. *Reports from Reuters, AFP and AP*

Marijuana . . .

(From page A1)

The teahouse plans to serve cannabis-laced cigarettes, food and tea leaves.

But the teahouse seeks to take the rules on medicinal marijuana a step further. It wants to allow what it calls "facilitators" who do not need marijuana for medicinal purposes but who will accompany the terminally ill patients inside the restaurant.

Canada's regulations, first announced in April and which came into effect in July, allow marijuana to be used for medical purposes by anyone with a terminal illness and a subsequent life expectancy of less than 12 months.

Patients suffering from specified chronic illnesses such as AIDS, cancer, severe arthritis, spinal cord injuries or multiple sclerosis also are allowed to seek approval for marijuana use.

Michael Maniotis, one of the five teahouse directors, said his group planned to invoke a section in the regulation to allow non-terminally ill patients into the teahouse. That section makes reference to people assisting the licensed marijuana user.

"This we take and develop a step further, by including the public who can also act as a facilitator in the presence of the licensed user," he said.

Local media have questioned whether the teahouse's interpretation of the law will stand up to federal and local authorities.

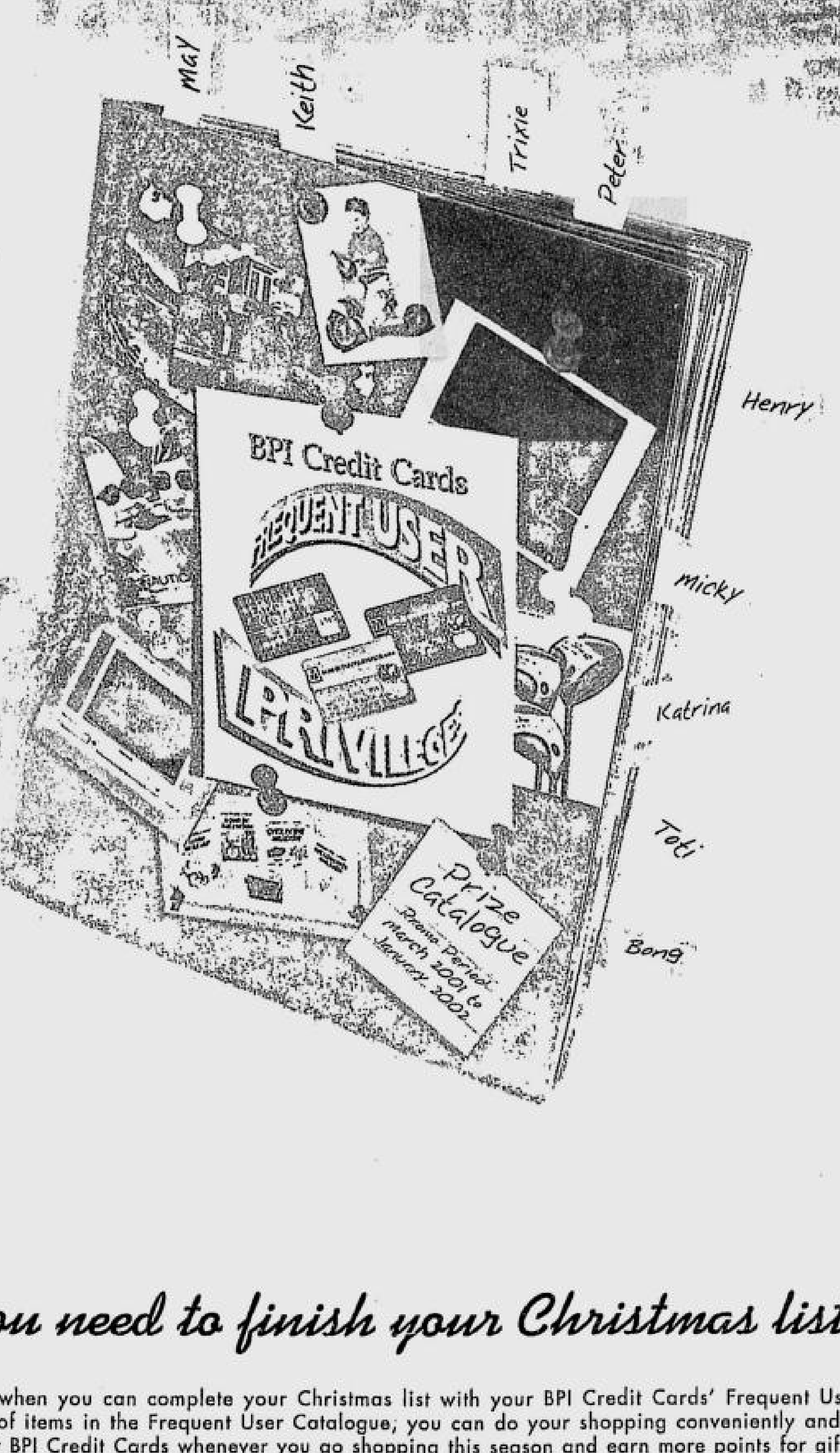
And Maniotis himself admitted his group did not yet have the proper license to be fully operational. All the group has is a one-day special event license for the opening of the Marijuana Teahouse.

Canada health officials could not be reached for comment.

The 180-square-meter facility has separate rooms for the medicinal marijuana users, and another for facilitators waiting to join them and for those below 18 who can come for tea.

"Cannabis is an extension of Canadian uniqueness," Maniotis said, adding that the teahouse was the first sanctioned facility to legally dispense marijuana in Canada.

He hopes to spur development of other marijuana teahouses across Canada and to attract US medical marijuana advocates. *AFP*



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Asean and anti-terrorism

EDITORIAL

THE INTERNATIONAL campaign against terrorism takes an Asean accent next week when the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in Brunei considers a draft declaration calling for increased regional cooperation in combating terrorism. The declaration grew out of a Philippine initiative seeking the formation of a coalition among the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia as the tripod of the Asean anti-terrorism effort.

While Asean members have joined the condemnation by the international community of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States, two of the largest Muslim countries in the Asean—Indonesia and Malaysia—have called on the United States and its Western allies to halt bombings on Afghanistan, emphasizing the divergence between the United States and some of its Asian allies over the mode of battling terrorism.

Indonesia and Malaysia, which are both secular Islamic states, have been roiled by protests from extremist Islamic groups which have manifested support for the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network. It is in the interest of the stability of their governments to strike a balance between fighting terrorism and not taking part in the military action staged by the United States and its Western allies.

The part of the Philippines in this three-nation coalition stems from the fact that it has a home-grown Islamic extremist group, the Abu Sayyaf, which has carried out terrorist activities in the form of abduction of innocent civilians and fighting government troops. The Abu Sayyaf has links to Bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

The Philippines has a significant Muslim population, and the governments of Malaysia and Indonesia are concerned over reports that the attacks on Afghanistan have fueled the resentment of fundamentalist Islamic groups against secular governments. Some governments in the Asean are worried that Islamic extremists may forge links within the region and undermine the stability of secular regimes. Already, there are reports that the Abu Sayyaf has sent arms to extremist groups in Indonesia. Many Filipino Muslims have declared themselves ready to volunteer as fighters joining the Taliban.

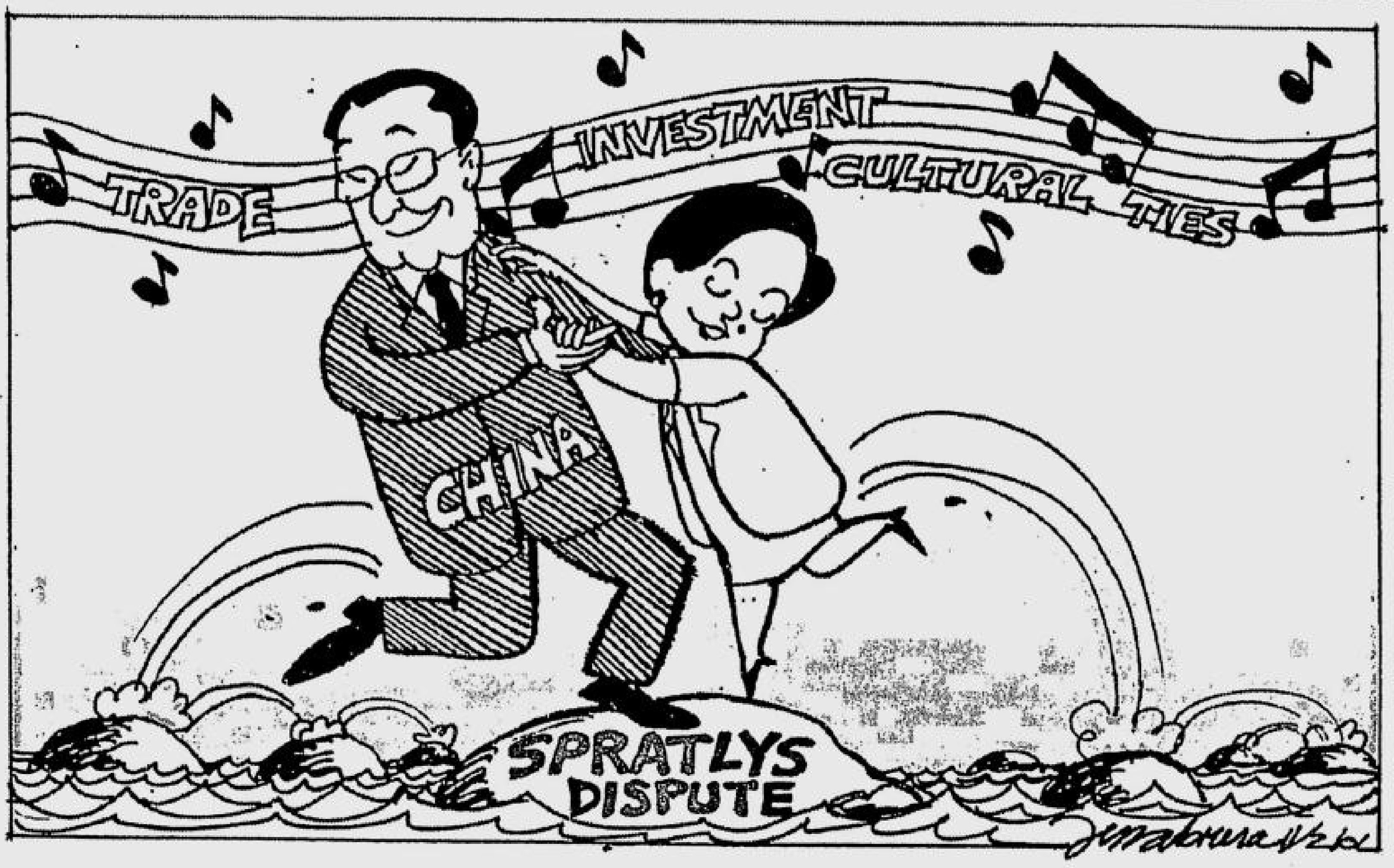
While the Philippines has a Muslim minority with close ties to the Muslims in Malaysia and Indonesia, it has gone farther than these two countries in assisting the US military action in Afghanistan. The Philippines has allowed the use of former American bases in Clark and Subic for refueling of aircraft and ships and transit of troops and supplies to staging points for Afghanistan.

American counterterrorism specialists are already in the Philippines acting as "advisers" to Filipino troops to improve their capability to fight the Abu Sayyaf. The more aggressive commitment of the Philippines to help US military action is in contrast to the more restrained posture of Indonesia and Malaysia, whose governments have to prevent Islamic extremism from spreading among their population.

Because of the different outlooks among the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia in their support of the international anti-terrorism campaign, their basis of cooperation is necessarily limited to non-military action. As President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has pointed out, "through this coalition, we will work to share intelligence on terrorist activities, tighten border patrols and, when necessary, take part in joint peacekeeping operations."

Such a coalition does not, however, inhibit the Philippines from pursuing the other dimension of its policy aligning the country with the US-led military action against terrorism. Its support for the campaign is anchored on the United Nations Security Council resolution establishing the framework for action against terrorism in many areas. While the Philippines' Asean allies are less enthusiastic about joining military action, President Macapagal has offered Filipino troops for combat duties, if requested within the UN framework.

The prospects of Philippine military involvement in the campaign appear remote. Our problem with terrorism centers on its local variants. We have had a long experience with banditry and outlawry in the South, but with the rise of Islamic extremism, our immediate concern is to check it from spreading, with the help of our Islamic neighbors.



DENR's Alvarez airs side on Ifmas, Abaya

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Heherson Alvarez invited three journalists to dinner last Tuesday to air his side on several controversies bugging him and his department. He said he was being clobbered in media and that his side is not being heard.

Alvarez and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources are currently embroiled in three controversies: (1) The Integrated Forest Management Agreements (Ifmas) granted to six corporations (at least 40 percent foreign-owned, and maybe up to 60 percent) but which turned out to have almost the same incorporators; (2) The sacking of Peter Anthony Abaya, director of the Environment Management Bureau; and (3) The tiff with Picop Resources Inc.

An Ifma, launched during the term of Secretary Antonio Cerilles, is a production-sharing contract between the DENR and a qualified applicant wherein the latter is granted the exclusive right "to develop, manage, protect and utilize" a specified area of forest land and the forest resources in it for 25 years. The Ifmas are subject to the constitutional requirement that the state can only enter into production-sharing agreements involving the development and utilization of natural resources with corporations at least 60 percent of the capital stock of which is owned by Filipino citizens. The maximum area covered by an Ifma is 40,000 hectares.

The problem: The six applicants granted Ifmas by Alvarez had different names (Goldenbell Hills, Tansland, Shannalyne, Caraga Forest and Tecland Inc.), but the DENR found out that their incorporators were almost the same persons. Each of them were given less than 40 hectares, but put together, the areas will be many times more than the maximum allowed for an Ifma.

Moreover, the people in control of these corporations were citizens of New Zealand and Finland and that although the articles of incorporation of each show that their outstanding capital stock is at least 60 percent owned by Filipino citizens, such Filipino stockholders have not fully paid for their shares while the foreign stockholders who hold the remaining 40 percent have fully paid for their shares.

The applicants have argued that although the Filipino shareholders may not have fully paid for their shares, the authorized capital stock in each corporation is still 60 percent since Section 72 of the Corporation Code provides that "holders of subscribed shares not fully paid which are not delinquent shall have all the rights of a stockholder."

The applicants also argued that although DENR Administrative Order 99-53 limits the size of an Ifma to 40,000 hectares, it does not prohibit a person or a corporation from being granted more than one Ifma.

Questions:

1. May a person or entity be granted more than one Ifma covering a total land area of more than 40,000 hectares provided that the land area of each Ifma does not exceed 40,000 hectares?
2. Should shares that have not been fully paid be considered in determining whether Filipino citizens hold at least 60 percent of the capital stock of a corporation?
3. May the DENR enter into Ifmas with the applicant-corporations in the light of the two preceding issues?

These questions Justice Secretary Hernando Perez will have to answer because the DENR has asked for his legal opinion.

* * *

On Peter Abaya, Alvarez said he was sacked as director of the Environment Management Bureau because he allowed the over-importation of the ozone depleting substance (ODS)(used in refrigeration and air conditioning, etc.), which is being phased out under the Montreal Protocol. Violation of the Montreal Protocol puts the Philippines in peril of economic sanctions from other nations.

According to a DENR paper, "ODS are man-made substances that destroy the ozone, a film-thin layer in the stratosphere that protects all life forms—human, animals, plants—from the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun. Without the ozone layer humans are exposed to skin cancer, cataract, and the immune system is damaged. The UV also destroys phytoplanktons which are the basic food of fish and thus the chain of life is broken."

There is a non-harmful substitute for ODS, hydrocarbons, but it is almost six times the price of ODS, so there is still a big demand for ODS. Under the Montreal Protocol, we agreed to reduce ODS importations every year until 2010, when there will be no more importation. We have been following that schedule until this jumped by 75 percent last year.

Why the over-importation? Alvarez explains it this way:

"The excess ODS of 955 metric tons cost roughly P71.6 million at per kilo price of US$1.30 in the world market. On the other hand, the substitute hydrocarbons cost US$60.60 per kg. The ODS importer thus had the opportunity to undersell his lethal product at, say, US$5.20/kg or US$3.90/kg or about P195/kg, a profit margin of 300 percent."

Abaya justifies the over-importation with a mysterious "Footnote 3" of DAO 2000-18 that says: "an allowance of 75 percent is added to the 1996 base figure to consider unaccountable imports."

Alvarez says this footnote is "totally contrived" and was not in the original draft, and is contrary to the whole intention of the Plan. "No one knows where this rabbit came from," he said. "The 75 percent figure is whimsical, arbitrary, inexplicable. It is based on an unknown and unknowable quantity, unaccountable imports, since no one knows what is unaccountable. More to the point, it is illegal. It violates the Montreal Protocol. Instead of reducing imports and consumption, it mandates a sudden rise."

Abaya is facing administrative charges. He may face criminal charges later on.

The other coalition

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

AS I write this, most of the world will be in Marrakech, Morocco, in the thick of finalizing a coalition to save the planet. That is the UN meeting to draft the "rule book" that will try to arrest global warming. The historic meeting began last Monday and will last for two weeks.

It does not include the United States of America.

The reason for the meeting is a simple one. Over the past decade, the earth has become hotter, causing its climate to change drastically. A change that has wreaked havoc on the world's agriculture, quite apart from causing all sorts of violent upheavals in nature, such as hurricanes and tornadoes and huge tidal waves as the polar icecaps melt and raise sea levels. But it's the long spells of drought and equally long spells of rain—called El Niño and La Niña, benign terms for malignant phenomena—that have been the bane of most countries. They're devastating crops, bringing hunger and famine to many parts of the world. Hardest hit has been Africa, already traditionally home to episodes of famine from crop failure. It has had an acute shortage of rainfall over the last 20 years, but especially over the last 10.

The Philippines, a once lush agricultural country and home of the miracle rice, has not been spared the ravages of El Niño and La Niña. A few years ago, a group of indigenous people in the south was compelled to subsist on poisonous *camote* as their crops withered and died from an unusually harsh drought. Scores died, as much from poisoning as from hunger. The description of the drought was graphic. One girl said she tried to extract whatever remained edible from a banana tree, but the bananas turned flaky at her touch and crumbled like dirt.

The main culprit for all this is not the destruction of the forest and the despoliation of sea and air by the poor countries, though these have contributed mightily to making a mess of the climate too. The main culprit for all this is the emission of "greenhouse gases" into the earth's atmosphere by the rich countries. That is what's heating up the earth. The solution, which is almost commonsensical, is to reduce the emission of those gases.

The No. 1 producer of them is the United States, accounting for 36.1 percent of the total. The other main contributors are the 15 European Union nations, 24.2 percent; Russia, 17.4 percent; and Japan, 8.5 percent.

But there's the rub. The emissions come from the machines in their factories and the engines from their motorcars. A reduction of them means either a reduction in production or an increase in its cost with the use of anti-polluting devices, and a scaling down of rich-country lifestyles. But at stake is the very survival of the planet. As terrorism goes, you won't find anything more terrifying than global warming, the not very silent killer stalking all of humanity today. Since 1990, the earth has heated up by 5.2 percent, largely from the emission of carbons, which has caused the freak natural disasters of the last 10 years, sudden storms, prolonged droughts and rain, extremes of heat and cold. Imagine what would happen during the next 10 years if the current levels of carbon emissions continue.

Between sacrificing the human race—as cynics say, the threat is merely to humans, not to the bugs who stand to inherit the earth—and sacrificing comfort, you would think the universal choice would be sacrificing comfort. You would think it would be the easy choice, the sane choice, the logical choice. Well, it is at least the near-universal choice. Most countries have opted to save the planet, whatever it takes. Not so the United States of America.

The United States was the lone dissenter in Bonn last July when 178 countries endorsed the implementing rules of the Kyoto Protocol. The Kyoto Protocol is the treaty drafted by most countries of the world in Japan in 1997 compelling the industrialized countries to reduce their "greenhouse gases" emissions. The United States refused to sign it, arguing that it would be harmful to the American economy. The Kyoto Protocol itself was a spin-off of the Rio Summit, the meeting in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 that officially tagged the emission of carbons by the industrialized countries as the main culprit in global warming.

The United States, then under George Bush senior, also refused to sign that pact, arguing its reasoning was flawed. Which is the same reason George Bush junior used to reject the Bonn agreement in July—its reasoning apparently was still flawed. Well, the world knows what kind of reasoning the Bushes regard as not being flawed. Which is that the way to make Saddam Hussein pay for his sins is to bomb Baghdad, and the way to make Osama bin Laden pay for his is to bomb Afghanistan. When the history of the world is written years from now—if humankind is still around—it will mention the two Bushes as leaving a legacy of leaving no bush standing, in more ways than one.

For the Bonn accord to take effect, it must be signed by 55 countries responsible for 55 percent of the emissions of "greenhouses gases." Despite the United States' refusal to do its part, the accord looks near to pushing through. The EU and Japan are all set to sign it, and unless Russia backs out of its commitment in Bonn—it has been trying to renegotiate some of its terms—the world will have something to celebrate next week. More than any news of Bin Laden's death or capture. Most of the delegates now in Marrakech actually thought the United States would change its mind and join the rest of the world in trying to save the planet given its current effort to cut a high moral profile. Bush said no.

That is the other coalition against terror, a terror that threatens not just civilization but all life itself. And the United States is not part of it. Well, as one delegate to Marrakech wryly put it, "Clearly, that country has other priorities."

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.

Fatigue

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE FIVE-DAY holiday beginning last Wednesday has been the longest work break for Filipinos for many years. Many people interviewed on TV expressed appreciation for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to give them the break, although there's precious little to thank the President for lifting the living conditions of the people.

While people in Manila joined the exodus to the provinces—to remember their dead, as well as seek refuge from the avalanche of bad news—the coup rumors took a life of their own, fueled by the obsession of government and media over the coup reports. The people, according to public opinion surveys, did not give the reports much credence. One suspects the people have been overcome by fatigue over the scandal-mongering and coup-mongering prior to the holidays.

The rumors were kept alive by the report of the think tank Stratfor (Strategic Forecasting), which it issued on Oct. 30, in time for the start of the holidays, saying that the Macapagal administration is in no danger of being overthrown, and the elements for a successful coup are not in place, although the President should take the rumors seriously, so she could nip coup plots in the bud.

Showing nervousness and lack of confidence in the capacity of the government to live out its term, Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao and Interior Secretary Jose Lina found a crutch in the Stratfor report. Tiglao cited Stratfor's observation that the President's performance has not "stirred the anger of the nation." Tiglao was apparently in the mood to clutch the first straw in reassuring the nation that the administration is in no danger of being toppled when he chided Stratfor for scaling the "heights of understatement" in its assessment. What Tiglao wants is a hyperbole.

Tiglao highlighted two points made by Stratfor: first, that elements of a successful coup are not in place; and, second, that there is no strong contender to take leadership. Tiglao cited a recent Pulse Asia survey which showed that the President's approval rating increased to 63 percent in October, from 47 percent in April. Tiglao made much of the survey finding that 24 percent of respondents chose the President as the most trustworthy Filipino leader. By contrast, only one to 2 percent thought deposed President Estrada, Sen. Panfilo Lacson and Sen. Edgardo Angara are trustworthy leaders.

While it is true that the President's trust rating has risen despite the daunting vicissitudes faced by her administration—including the economic slowdown spurred by the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, the continuing defiance of the Abu Sayyaf, the scandals on alleged wrongdoings attributed to her husband, Mike Arroyo and the raking political guerrilla warfare waged by the opposition on the administration—this is not an argument to support Stratfor's assertion that "there is no strong contender" to the presidency and there is no alternative to President Macapagal.

Perhaps, in a constitutional system and within the electoral system, there may not be a strong contender to the presidency. But when we speak of coups, this argument does not wash. A coup d'état is an extra-constitutional method to take power. A coup breeds its own leaders in the shadows. It is a swift seizure of power that has no room for high-profile political competition for popularity.

Stratfor, however, has a point when it concludes that the President has not committed an outrageous act that could stir up public anger the way the corruption scandals of the Estrada administration galvanized street action and triggered the withdrawal of support of key sectors—including the Catholic Church, the business community and the Armed Forces. Despite the administration's indifferent performance, there is no triggering event that can send people to the streets to demand her resignation or to support coup plots.

If President Macapagal is to interpret correctly her rising trust ratings in the face of difficulties facing the nation, the explanation may be found in the fact that the people have become exhausted with political turbulence and instability that have rocked this nation over the past 12 months. The people want a respite from endless political turmoil and be left alone to look after themselves to survive the economic slowdown. Fatigue has set in. The military cannot be stirred up to mount another defection, only 10 months after the military leadership defected from the Estrada administration. Political instability that hampers economic recovery is the last thing the business community wants.

True, members of civil society which backed the movement on the resignation of Estrada and the succession of Ms Macapagal are restive and want to claim a piece of the pie in running the government, but this unrest is not sufficient to knock down the props of government. One strong evidence that the people are not in the mood to be mobilized to support a coup or another popular movement to depose President Macapagal is that they welcome an extended holiday to rest their nerves and to be away from the vortex of unending political contentions. They are no longer excited over the long-drawn trial process of Estrada—a trial that has become a routine to our political life.

In another few weeks, the Christmas holidays will be setting in, giving another opportunity for the public to forget about political bickerings, scandal-mongering and coup-mongering. If there's going to be a coup in December, the military or components of it will stage one without talking about it—and we will be in trouble. In December 1989, the biggest coup was staged against the Aquino administration by rebel military units. It struck suddenly.

Thus, if there's too much talk about a coup, it is unlikely to happen—regardless of Stratfor's assessment. What the nation needs badly is a tranquilizer from too much tension, and the holidays are providing it.

Ways of remembering

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

FOR MOST of us Filipinos, yesterday was spent trooping to cemeteries and memorial parks to pay our respects to our dead, with candles, flowers and prayers.

Incredibly, after years of chaos and congestion, we seem to have learned some lessons. In Marikina, at least, traffic in the early morning was smooth flowing, thanks to a policy the past few years designating as a one-way thoroughfare the main artery leading to both the city cemetery and Loyola Memorial Park. And compared to the trash mounds that used to surround the plots of Loyola even at dawn of Nov. 1, this year, we found the walks and benches pleasantly clear of rubbish, what with sweepers clearing up litter at regular intervals.

By late afternoon, though reports mentioned vehicles slowing to a crawl in the vicinity of the major cemeteries, there didn't seem to be any major problems cropping up.

One reason for this year's relatively smooth observance of the feast known to Filipinos as "*undas,*" I think, is the decision of the government to declare a five-day holiday to mark the observance of All Saints' and All Souls' Day. Many well-off families, I had heard, used the unexpected extended holiday to plan for out-of-town trips.

The majority of families, though, may have used the long holiday simply as a means to be more flexible in their observance of this social and cultural obligation. With so many days off from work, family members could choose to visit their dead on All Saints' Day itself, or anytime before or after. This might explain the relatively stress-free atmosphere in the city yesterday. Or, it could simply be that we have, after all these years, learned our lessons, with local governments preparing for the day and anticipating all the usual problems. Whatever, it makes the observance of this age-old practice less of an ordeal, enabling us to perform our rituals of prayer and communion with greater fervor and feeling.

* * *

WE remember our dead in all sorts of ways. For a "grand" family reunion to mark the turn of the millennium, the Jimenez clan embarked on an ambitious book project that told the story of how our particular branch began and prospered, as well as the many stories that have since become part of family lore.

While we are (justly, we think) quite proud of this effort, we had always assumed only members of the family, and friends our grandparents, parents, uncles and aunts had made through the years and in the course of sojourns around the islands, would be interested in the book. How gratifying, then to find in a recent issue of The Philippine Star, a review by writer Krip Yuson of "Generations: In Search of Family."

I'd given Krip a copy of the book some months back because I wanted to interest him in this genre of family history. What none of us expected was his kind and favorable write-up, and his recommendation of our efforts as a model for other families who might want to document and record the memories and tales that make up a family's identity.

Krip might want to know that his review was promptly picked up and disseminated through the family e-mail group, so he shouldn't be surprised if The Star's online edition received an unprecedented number of hits these past few days.

To Krip, my personal thanks and those of our entire clan!

* * *

WATCHING the World War II drama "Band of Brothers" recalled for me the family stories on what was undoubtedly a turning point in our family fortunes and fates.

We lost an uncle in the course of the war, our Tio Titong who survived the Death March and joined the Kangleon guerrillas in Leyte. He was forced to surrender to the Japanese after the invaders picked up my grandfather and held him hostage in exchange for his guerrilla son. Life and death marked his brief stay in Leyte. After his release from the garrison, Tito Titong met and married the beautiful Ansing Lastrilla, daughter of a prominent Tacloban lawyer and judge, but died barely a month after the wedding when his former guerrilla comrades blew up a truck he was riding in.

In that same period, my Tito Nick, having survived the Death March and the horrific conditions of Camp O'Donnel, traveled with his young family to Mindanao where he joined the guerrilla forces. In Polomolok, Cotabato, my father and mother had settled with the pioneering families they had led as part of the government's "land for the landless" program. But after the American forces landed, they found themselves, with my two eldest siblings, fleeing Polomolok on foot, finally making their way to Davao.

In Tacloban, meanwhile, where my Lolo Ponso and Lola Pacita were caught by the war, an aunt and three uncles met their future spouses, began their families and planned for a future amid the uncertainties of war.

* * *

HEARING these stories and putting them down in writing, for what we hope will be a permanent record for the coming generations, I was struck by how much the generations before us had risked and overcome to keep the family going. My mother left her small hometown to join her husband in the wilderness of the Koronadal Valley. Tita Lala dressed in rags and looked unkempt for her visits to Camp O'Donnell, in hopes of seeing her husband unmolested by Japanese settlers. My uncles Toto and Ramy ran a "cottage industry" making cooking oil, soap and even liquor which they bartered for food to help feed the family in the face of hardships of the Japanese occupation. Compared to what they have had to sacrifice, what has our generation risked and suffered? Remembering their stories and putting them between the covers of a book is our way of perpetuating the memory of our beloved dead.

Rizal in Singapore

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHILE everyone cursed the crowds and traffic at cemeteries yesterday, I wondered why it is a must for Filipinos to visit their dead on Nov. 1 when graves don't move and can be visited any other day in the year. If you look closely at the Roman Catholic Calendar, Nov. 1 is the Feast of All Saints (*Todos los Santos*) not All Souls (*Todos los difuntos*) which falls on Nov. 2. Surely, many of our dear, and not so dear departed were far from saintly in their lifetime—why not visit them on Oct. 31, Halloween, and beat the rush? Or, better still, visit on Nov. 2 and save money on pre-owned flowers and discounted candles?

This long holiday weekend saw my sisters taking Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon's advice to help domestic tourism. One went to cool Tagaytay while the other one swam with the dolphins in Subic. I sulked at home and wrote this column, while my dutiful father took our place in family memorial plots in Taguig and Pampanga. It must be hard for him to explain away our absence at these once-compulsory family reunions.

Times are indeed changing. If you drove around Manila during Holy Week 10 years ago, the city was a ghost town, but in recent years the business districts may be dead but the malls are packed during the Holy Week break. If we have more long weekends, more urban people might take a break from the cities and the malls to visit the rest of the country. Whether Pinoy tourism will all add up and make up for the loss of foreign tourists, I don't know but at least more Filipinos will cease to be foreigners in their own country.

In my work I often use foreign travel accounts of the Philippines to recreate the past, though I wish we had more Filipino sources to describe socio-cultural life in the 18th and 19th centuries. Now I am left with the recollections of tourists. One of the books I intend to write, if I find enough material, will be to use Filipino accounts of London, Paris, New York, Madrid, etc. to see the world from Filipino eyes. Like "Lonely Planet" in reverse. On my recent trip to Singapore I retraced Jose Rizal's steps using his travel diary of 1882. It took me three hours to fly from Manila to Singapore, but for Rizal who traveled by steamship, it took a week.

It was Rizal's first trip abroad, and aside from the anxiety that accompanies all travelers, Rizal had to cope with the fact that he left secretly without even bidding his parents goodbye. All these weighed heavily on him and on May 9, 1882 he had a nightmare he recorded in his diary the next day:

"I've had a sad and frightful dream which seemed so real. I dreamed that while in Singapore my brother [Paciano] had suddenly died and I told my old mother about it because she was traveling with me on the boat. The dream was confirmed by Sor Catalina and then I had to return, leaving everything in this country. Why did I have that dream? I'm thinking of sending a cable to Calamba to find out the truth; but I'm not superstitious. I left my brother strong and robust.

"It is true that I had a dream once that was fulfilled. Before the examination for the first year in Medicine, I dreamed that I was asked certain questions but I didn't mind them. When the examinations came, I was asked the questions in my dream. May God will that it might not happen thus!"

Rather than contemplate his dream, Rizal distracted himself by hiring a coach, took a tour guide and drove all around Singapore. His travel impressions are quite striking—there were lots of shops and English was spoken everywhere. He noted that Singapore Chinese looked better and more honest than Philippine Chinese. I see little or no difference today. As I walked around "little India" I noticed that there were very few Indian and Malay women in the streets. Rizal said the same thing though he was told the women stay at home. I thought they were in the shopping malls. Rizal noticed Chinese women with artificially deformed feet. I did not see them though their beautiful shoes are now sold in antique shops and can be seen in the museum. I saw no VIPs in Singapore because their politicians are busy campaigning for the elections. Rizal saw the Maharajah of Lahore and described him as "an old stout man, respectable-looking and garbed in European style but wearing a sort of apron." Nothing escapes his curious eyes so if Rizal visited the gothic Protestant church so did I.

Rizal mentioned the Palace of the Rajah of Siam marked by "a small iron elephant and whatnot on the pedestal placed in front of the building." I saw the Royal Thai Embassy on Orchard Road but found the elephant in front of Singapore's Parliament. A little research revealed that the iron elephant was a gift of King Chulalangkorn who visited Singapore in 1871. It used to be in front of the city hall but was replaced by a statue of Raffles, the founder of modern Singapore.

While it was fascinating to get to know Singapore through Rizal's eyes, I should visit Singapore longer next time and be prepared to retrace the footsteps of Emilio Aguinaldo who was promised Philippine independence by the US consul in exchange for Filipino support during the Spanish-American war. There is much to Philippines-Singapore history before Flor Contemplacion.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

ALS and me

"MY offer is not an empty boast," I categorically emphasized in my letters to many hospitals and research institutions in the United States and Europe that are engaged in the study and research for the cure and treatment of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or ALS, for short.

"I am awaiting for any takers," I added, as I have voluntarily offered myself to be a guinea pig or human specimen for their ongoing trials of promising discoveries and potential drugs for the treatment of ALS. I am even willing to donate my cadaver thereafter for autopsy, for dissection of muscle after muscle to further the study of the disease.

HIGH BLOOD

Pyke L. Alibadbad

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. **—Ed.**

At least, that would be my contribution, no matter how minor, to the cause of scientific research for the good of mankind. If soldiers and heroes offered their lives as the sublime sacrifice for their country or for a noble cause, to me, what is my one life to offer if it may yet save the lives of my own sons, relatives and those afflicted with ALS? It is far better to give myself now for a good cause than see myself uselessly die slowly like a melting taper, without any medication, awaiting as each day passes for the inevitable. Rizal was politically correct and has stirred me to consciousness when he said, "It is a useless life that is not dedicated to a noble purpose."

I do not want to be a hero because the days of glorious heroism in our country has long passed. Nor am I an eager rabble-rouser or desperate to hit the news because since I was positively diagnosed to be suffering from ALS over a year ago, I have since surfed the Internet and stormed medical institutions here and abroad, with letters seeking answers and an update on the latest developments and advances on the treatment of the disease. One honest answer I got on Aug. 25, 2000 from the national headquarters of the Muscular Dystrophy Association, USA was: "Because there is no treatment or cure for ALS, it is not recommended that those affected by the disorder come to the United States for medical attention."

Lou Gehrig's disease

I am very grateful that Dr. Rafael R. Castillo amply discussed what ALS is all about and the present gloomy prognosis about the disease in his "Medical Files" columns of May 12 and June 16, 2001. Unlike other "popular" diseases like cancer, diabetes, AIDS, TB or heart diseases, where extensive research had been done to find their cure and have active medical support groups, ALS research has been struggling along despite its first discovery in 1874 by Jean Martin Charcot, a French doctor. This disease only became known in the United States when baseball great and Hall of Famer Lou Gehrig was diagnosed and subsequently died of the disease in 1939, ironically coinciding with the year of my birth.

ALS is a progressive motor neuron disease primarily affecting the component nerve supply that connects the brain with all the voluntary muscles of the skeletal system. The progressive breakdown of the cells of the spinal cord results in the gradual loss of muscle function. The muscles eventually waste away from disuse and the patient becomes completely paralyzed and dies. However, mental deterioration usually does not occur and it is neither contagious nor cancerous.

Currently, there is no cure for ALS although drug therapy can slow the progression of the disease. Also known as Charcot's Disease or Lou Gehrig's Disease, it is a very rare disease with unknown causes and no known treatment. The ALS Association in the United States estimates that about 30,000 Americans have ALS and about 5,000 people are diagnosed with the disease each year. Moreover, ALS causes two deaths per 100,000 people per year. Worldwide, it occurs in one out of every 100,000 people and has no racial, socio-economic or ethnic boundaries. Most people who develop ALS are between 40 and 70 years old. The disease is also more common among men than women.

I would never have known that I had ALS without my children's constant prodding almost to a nag, that I submit myself to a medical check-up in 1999. I argued then that I had my executive check-up five years ago before I retired and I was given a clean bill of health. Besides, my blood pressure had an average reading of 120 over 80 through all those years and I was pretty confident that I would be hale and hearty into my old age in retirement like my father and grandfather who both lived into their 90s.

I had this mild lisp in my speech that I alone first noticed but casually ignored it. I would try to clear my throat and position my tongue to frame my words well and hide my speech difficulty but my tongue was becoming heavier each day and started giving me away. First to notice were my two 5-year-old grandchildren whom I used to romp with on their weekend visits with their parents. What broke the straw was my nosy neighbor's wife who confronted my wife, "*Mare, lasing ba si* Pyke?" asking if I had already been drinking that early in the morning. "No," my wife hastily countered. "He seldom drinks and not this early. Why?" "Just asking," the neighbor said as she must have casually overheard me talking animatedly with some difficulty though, with my son's *barkada* about the special attributes of an American Pitbull Terrier that my son owns as a pet.

Nagging chorus

From then on, my wife joined in chorus with my children to go and see a doctor, which I have bean stalling. I was even accompanied by my eldest daughter to a local cardiologist she personally knew to make sure. After taking my case history and other tests, including an ECG, the diagnosis was simply a minor cerebro-vascular accident (CVA) or in layman's term, a mild stroke. I was prescribed medicines and the doctor confidently advised me what to be careful about—my diet and allowable exercises, etc.—and assured that the lisping will heal in due time with speech therapy, if necessary.

I had a regular check-up thereafter and changes of medication for about a year without a noticeable change for the better but a heavier lisp, unexplained loss of weight and weakening and visible atrophy of the muscles in both hands and a little difficulty swallowing.

When I was finally referred to a neurologist through my insistence, my new doctor's suspicion on the symptoms she found in me was confirmed when she returned with a positive verdict: the symptoms are consistent with ALS. She had previously recommended me to a neurologist specialist at the UST Hospital who exhaustively conducted a series of tests, including an electromyography (EMG) and a nerve conduction velocity (NCV) test.

In all calmness and composure, my neurologist looked me in the eye and confided to me the final results of my tests and the realities that go with it. I made so many inquiries only a very inquisitive layman like me could ask as my doctor tried to answer the best she could. She then handed me a thick sheaf of photocopied papers on ALS, probably from a college textbook for my perusal, and assured me she'd consult with her peers in their forthcoming national conference of neurologists and would relay to me any new findings or development. Meantime, she prescribed me a daily dose of Pharmaton capsules and a lot of prayers, with emphasis on the latter.

I accepted my doctor's diagnosis with equanimity and condescension, not with morbid resignation but with an impetus to start my insatiable quest for more information so I could fight out the disease before it overwhelms me. I know it is a lonely fight against an unknown and incurable disease without any arms or ammunition or therapeutic support. Ah, arms, yes I have two, severely emaciated to skin and bones; dangling at my sides that I excruciatingly used to write this article and other articles to whoever can provide relief.

Pyke L. Alibadbad, 62, is a retiree of the Central Bank of the Philippines. He asks that you include him and others like him in your prayers.

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Unwise DECS curriculum merger plan

LETTERS

THE DEPARTMENT of Education, Culture and Sports' plan to merge three non-core subjects into one in its New Basic Education Curriculum slated for implementation next year is both unwise and unpractical. Relegating the teaching of values to what seems to be a token concession or a mere afterthought, at a time when it really needs to be reinforced and emphasized, sends the wrong message to our students that character and morality are not that important after all. We have seen the disastrous effect of too much learning in people without the concomitant tempering balm of compassion—they become politicians, they become corrupt, and then they become mad.

There is in fact a greater need to lengthen the time a student is supposed to be in school, both in terms of extending the daily schedule and of changing, for example, the present four-year high school course to five years. The solution really lies in the judicious management of the little time that is allotted to the student in the school.

What is more important is the need to institute immediate and meaningful reforms in the area of textbooks, a large percentage of which I have discovered to be substantially defective. Faulty textbooks institutionalize mental mediocrity by teaching what are false or incorrect.

Consider the Biology textbook of the Diwa Learning Systems, known in the education sector as being "strong" in the discipline of Science. This statement on Page 73—The Brontosaurus, a dinosaur (meaning "thunder lizard") with a large horn on the nose and a long horn over each eye, was 20 feet long and weighed 7 tons—already contains 7 errors:

1. It is the word Brontosaurus which means "thunder lizard."
2. Dinosaur means "terrible lizard."
3. The name Brontosaurus is no longer used. The correct name is Apatosaurus.
4. Apatosaurus did not have horns.
5. Triceratops is the one described.
6. Apatosaurus was 76 feet long.
7. It weighed about 42 tons.

The subject Values Education assumes the guiding and counseling role which many of today's parents have relegated to the schools. It is the one redeeming factor in the present curriculum which tends to promote the ascendancy of mind over heart, mental acuity over spiritual fortitude. Keeping in mind that character is the end of life, we must lobby for the retention of Values Education as a full-time sovereign subject. We should also demand that reforms be made in the system of textbook development, evaluation and selection to ensure quality education for all schoolchildren.—**ANTONIO CALIPJO GO, academic supervisor, Marian School of Quezon City, 199 Sauyo Rd., Novaliches, Quezon City**

Manila Water still charges lowest rate

ALLOW me to respond to the article of Gerald Lacuarta and Agnes Donato last Oct. 9, regarding the impending increase in water rates. For Manila Water's customers, this will mean a P1.06 per cubic meter (equivalent to five drums) increase on top of the basic rate of P4.64 per cubic meter which we currently charge. This is still lower than the projected P15.65 per cubic meter which the Metropolitan Waterworks Sewerage System would be collecting had it not been privatized in 1997, or the P9.43 per cubic meter which Maynilad Water Services Inc. currently charges its consumers in the west zone.

Why do our customers pay less? Because over the past four years, Manila Water's employees have efficiently delivered more water to more households, commercial and industrial areas, including over 200,000 urban poor in some 100 communities, throughout the east zone.

Manila Water has efficiently reduced its non-revenue water (NRW) from a high of 63 percent in 1997 to only 48 percent in September 2001.

Manila Water has been able to translate this efficiency into lower water prices. It has been paying its concession fees religiously to the MWSS since 1997 (P1.20 billion to date), and is going full-steam ahead with a P1.5 billion capital expenditure next year to further improve water and sewerage services.

As to the complaints of the Federation of United Homeowners Associations of Antipolo, Manila Water is doing all it can to provide water to the subdivisions in the Antipolo area. We have spent P31 million for the laying of mainline and secondary lines along Sumulong Highway and Marcos Highway. We are fast-tracking the completion of projects so these lines can supply some 9 million liters of water per day to benefit an estimated 9,000 families living in the subdivisions lining the stretch of these pipelines.

The federation is questioning the fees we charge. They represent subdivisions in the area to which we want to deliver water but which unfortunately do not have their own distribution lines which their respective developers should have installed.

If the federation feels that the interconnection cost to Manila Water's newly laid waterlines are too expensive, the low-cost option would be for them to get their own accredited contractor. Manila Water will supervise the work for them.—**JOEL LACSAMANA, director, corporate communications, Manila Water Co., 2/F MWSS Administration Bldg., Katipunan Rd., Balara, Quezon City**

Liabilities not understated

IN THE COCKTALES column of Oct. 20, Victor Agustin wrote that "SGV's reputation is on the line again, with bank creditors belatedly discovering that Ramcar's audited liabilities had been understated by, give or take, P6 billion."

This statement is completely erroneous because:

- SGV & Co. audits only five out of the 40 or so entities of the Ramcar/Agustines group of companies.
- All the outstanding bank loans of the five companies we audit were confirmed 100 percent by the banks concerned (except one bank with an outstanding balance of P3.9 million for which we did not receive a confirmation reply).—**MARIA L. BALMACEDA, director, Marketing and Communications, SyCip Gorres Velayo & Co., 6760 Ayala Ave., Makati City**

Blood, sweat and tears of retirees

I AM the widow of Marcelo V. Gutierrez Sr., a GSIS retiree who died on Nov. 4, 2000. I understand that I am entitled to receive survivorship benefits but since December 2000 I have not received a single centavo from the GSIS.

I wanted to hear the GSIS' side on this matter so I decided to notify the agency about my predicament and ask for a clarification regarding the non-payment of my survivorship benefits. However, I did not receive any reply from the GSIS despite the letters of inquiry that I sent to the agency addressed to its branches in Manila and Lucena City.

I am already 78 years old and due to a stroke, my body movements have been limited and I could no longer do the normal things that people my age are still capable of doing. Times are hard and the benefits which I believe I am entitled to would've been a great help in the purchase of my medicines.

It's a pity that the GSIS failed to act on my complaint or even just acknowledge my letter and I know that my case is just one of the many shortcomings of this agency.

I just hope that the GSIS remembers that the benefits which people like me are asking from it involves the blood, sweat and tears of its retirees like my late husband.—**JOSEFINA P. GUTIERREZ, c/o Alicia Quila, Ciudad Maharlika, Ilayang Iyam, Lucena City**

List of advisers furnished by Palace

THIS is in reference to news items quoting Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao as having described as "inaccurate" published information on Malacañang's presidential advisers, consultants and assistant secretaries.

There's nothing to double check. There's nothing to explain. Stories on the list of Malacañang's presidential advisers, consultants and assistant secretaries, which were carried by some morning dailies were based on a one-page document furnished me by Senior Assistant to the Executive Secretary Waldo Flores. My source was Malacañang.

Therefore, the data on the number of presidential advisers, consultants, assistants and assistant secretaries could not be inaccurate despite Tiglao's contention.

I did not come out with the press releases on the list but merely distributed copies of the list among members of the media covering the House of Representatives. The news reports that came out in the newspapers were based on the distributed copies of the list.

The same issue was also raised by Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico during the floor deliberations on the proposed P3.1 billion 2001 budget for the Office of the President.

Finally, let me put on record that due to my background as a broadcast journalist, I always check my facts first before coming out publicly with any information. No one, not Tiglao, can accuse me of inaccuracy.—**REP. TED FAILON, First District of Leyte**

Not involved in joint meeting

WITH REGARD to Ramon Tulfo's column last Oct. 20 titled, "A dictatorial city mayor," the Rotary Club of General Santos City wish to categorically deny any knowledge or involvement in the scenario described by Tulfo. We did not contact or were we contacted by any person regarding a proposed joint meeting with Col. Victor Corpus or Mary Ong as guest speakers.—**CHARLS F. PARTRIDGE, president, Rotary Club of General Santos City, Club No. 17116, District 3860**

Secretary Gordon on my mind

COMMENTARY

Asuncion David Maramba

THIS may not be the time to talk of the pleasures of tourism; yet this may be the very time to talk of them. We're drained; we're war-weary; thanks to this relentless media overload obsessed with detail and laced with hysteria. There is real need for some relief, some calm, some normalcy to keep our equanimity. Are we on the edge of panic? We deserve a break. We need to get out—out of the cities, out of reach of TV and radio, out!

Moreover, jobs are thinning. There is truth to what never-say-die Gordon says, "*may turista, may trabaho.*" But the setbacks plaguing the industry, the latest of which are the advisories classifying our country as "unsafe for travel," are strong signals that Secretary Richard Gordon must cast his eye toward local tourists. We must, we can be, our best tourists.

Hangzhou has 18 million local tourists yearly (and 2 million foreigners); Beijing has 100 million (and 3 million foreigners). I'm sure the secretary has done his mathematics and knows what fraction of our population or how many local tourists we must generate to survive. His proposal of a four-day work week and a three-day weekend is a frank courtship of weekend tourists.

And since the target market is the struggling upper-lower-middle eco-classes, "value-for-money" is an imperative. Why go on a Manila Tour or a Laguna Loop if it's more rewarding to shop in Baclaran? A little farther off, why go to Bohol or Cebu if the Hong Kong or Bangkok packages are cheaper?

And the tour packages must be ready. Once, we drove to Paskuhan Village. When the advertised time for the lights to go on came, there was no one to run them. Who was responsible? I finally found one and I think I promised him some bad publicity. The lights finally went on. "*Hindi daw matutuloy*" can be a kiss of death. But that was before Secretary Gordon.

A brochure led us to the Lakeshore Artist Village around Angono. But once there, we had to ask—ask—ask. Apart from the Blanco Musem, where was Nemiranda; where, Manansala's house; where, Tiamson? And what a heartbreak for the uncelebrated home of Carlos "Botong" Francisco. And where was Balaw-Balaw where we could eat? The places were "empty"; no guide to enrich us with information.

I once treated two young boys and their lola with a "half-day tour." We cruised through Ayala Avenue and Roxas Boulevard, walked through San Agustin and Fort Santiago and finally to the Museo Pambata and lunch at Jollibee. Prodded by my home-made spiel, the boys craned their necks to see the top of Makati buildings, were thrilled by the cascade of water of Peninsula Hotel, awestruck in San Agustin, and *nakawala* at the Museo. I think they enjoyed themselves.

Knowledgeable persons in every province can list down all the touristic and historical spots, suggest combinations depending on the length of the tour, provide local tour guides, contribute to the research for the running commentary. In Laguna for example, road tours can be arranged for Los Baños, Pagsanjan, Pila, San Pablo, alone or in combinations; or to the mountain towns of Nagcarlan-Liliw-Majayjay; or the lake towns of Paete-Pakil-Pangil; or the Rizal Shrine in Calamba or the Escudero Estate; or perchance a lake tour where at some point to another, tourists can cross or cruise Laguna Lake. But how envious we felt on a languid West Lake boat ride in Hangzhou or on Lake Galilee or even on an ordinary river tour to the harbor and back in Melbourne. What have we done to Laguna Lake and Pasig River?

China is "new" at tourism, developed after its reclusive Cultural Revolution. Yet the dovetailing of tourist efforts is nothing short of astounding. It may be expected in the great cities of Shanghai and Beijing but take Guilin. It's still provincial and we got shook up on roads under construction to Lipu Village, a minority county of 360,000 people, to get to the caves and subterranean rivers beneath the Guilin mountains. But a hotel at the foot of the mountains was already there, and a local guide in local costume who spoke proudly of local customs, food and crops, and even sang for us, was there. The cruise in low boats and the lights in the caverns, just enough to pierce the darkness and the dinosaurs that came at you as your boat floated by were all operating in tip-top condition and timing. What a welcome light at the end of the tunnel as one looked up and saw the sky again.

The point is, all the factors of any tourism effort must be addressed simultaneously: the places to see, the combinations, the guides, scripts, scheduling, transportation, roads, parking space. The excellent Lakbay TV showcases countless destinations and fiestas in our beautiful and bountiful country but packaging has to be done.

P.S. China tours made us watch processes in a silk factory, a tea village, pearl, jade, crystal, terracotta, cloisonné factories where we were handed coupons entitling us to a gift upon purchase of a certain amount. Have we thought of including embroidery in Lumban; woodcarving and papier mâché in Paete; puto-making and ceramics in Biñan; footwear in Liliw or Marikina; guitar-making in Cebu, etc. As in China, such would be good for culture and good for business. And the food! But don't we have restaurants and regional specialties galore?

Asuncion David Maramba is a book editor, retired professor and occasional journalist.

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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

US NAVY crewmen work on an F-14 Hornet jet fighter as the sun sets over the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson in the Arabian Sea Oct. 31. Jets on the ship have been carrying out around-the-clock strikes against Taliban forces since the attacks began Oct. 7. REUTERS

US heavy bombers hammer frontlines

KABUL—US B-52s intensified the carpet bombing of frontline positions in the north Thursday as the Taliban claimed Afghanistan's biggest power station had been severely damaged and a major dam in the barren south of the drought-stricken country put at risk.

The Kajaki hydro-electric power station in Helmand province was bombed Wednesday afternoon and electricity supplies to the cities of Kandahar and Lashkarga were completely cut.

Taliban Education Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi warned any further bombing would destroy the dam on which the power plant, 90 km northwest of Kandahar, depends.

"So far water has not started gushing out of the dam but any further bombing will destroy the dam. It may cause widespread flooding putting at risk the lives of thousands of people," Muttaqi was quoted as saying.

The dam contains 2,700 million cubic meters of water, produces 150,000 kilowatts of electricity per hour and irrigates land farmed by 75,000 families with more than 50,000 cattle, he said.

"America wants to destroy everything in Afghanistan. There are no military installations in Kajaki, not even in the district," the minister said.

No independent confirmation of the destruction was possible but residents of Kandahar, the Taliban's southern nerve center, have reported constant power outages since the air strikes began on Oct. 7.

Stratofortress B-52 bombers dropped their thunderous payloads on Taliban positions close to the border with Tajikistan for more than four hours from 4 a.m. (7 a.m. in Manila) Thursday morning, reporters in the region said.

The ground shook and windows shattered in the opposition-held town of Khwaja Bahauddin, some 25 km from the Taliban's forward positions.

The Taliban said fighting also raged on the ground with the US-backed opposition in the northern Dara-e-Souf valley, 70 km south of the strategic Taliban-held town of Mazar-i-Sharif. *AFP*

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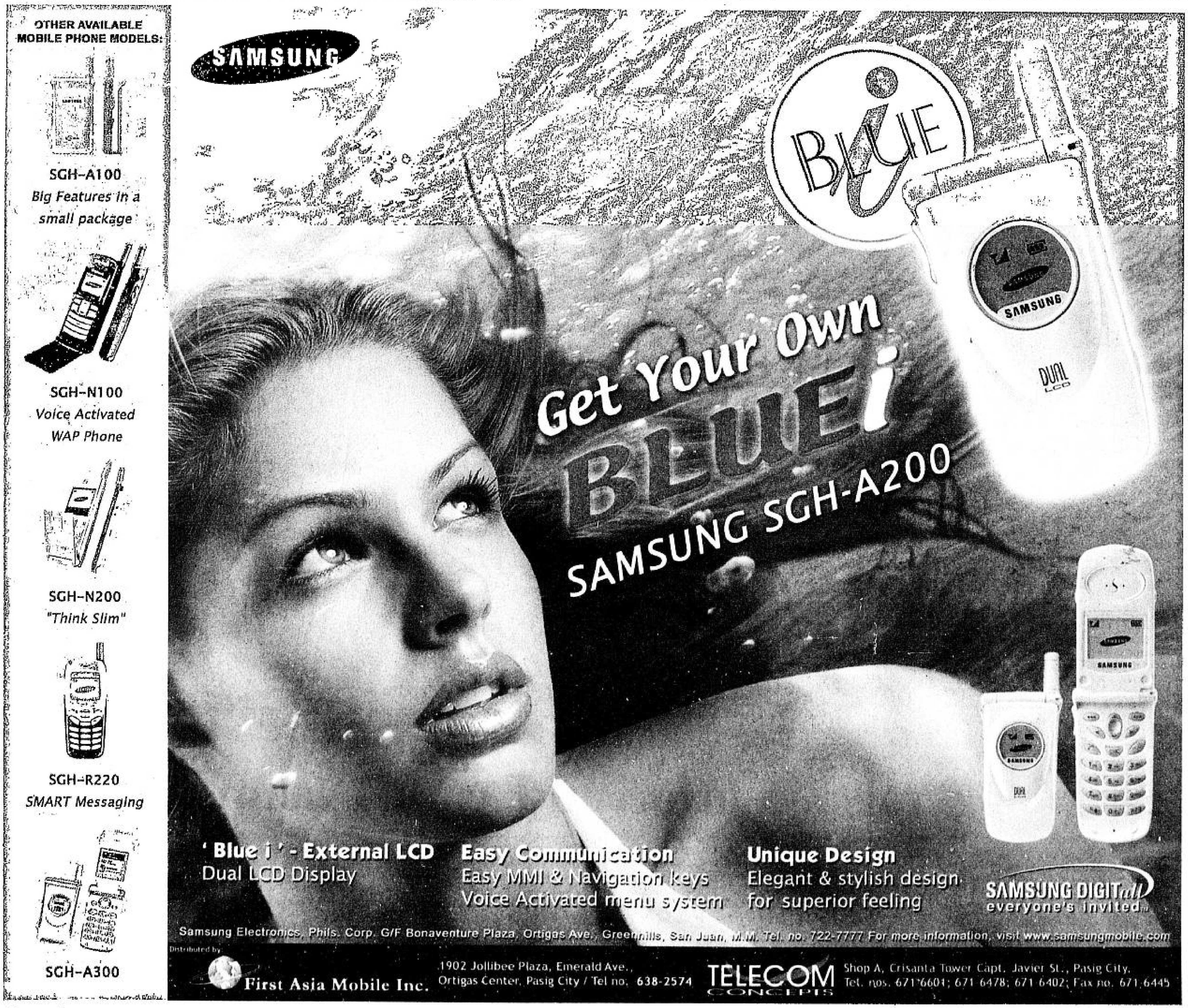
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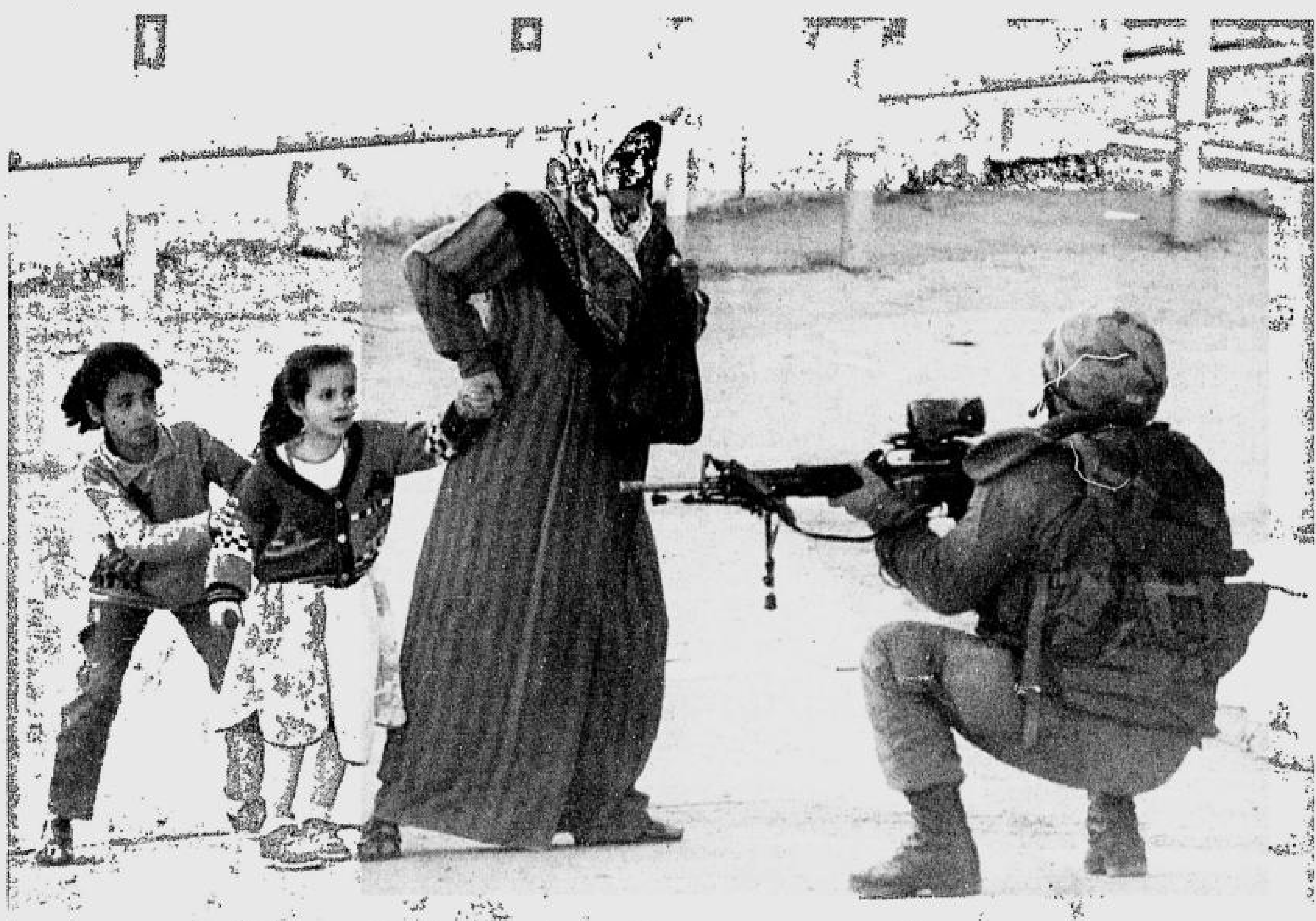
Blair to push for end to Mideast violence



AN ISRAELI soldier raises his weapon as a Palestinian woman pulls her children along a road in the divided West Bank city of Hebron Oct. 31. Israeli soldiers killed four Palestinians on Wednesday, including a militant targeted in a missile strike, as British Prime Minister Tony Blair began a regional peace shuttle with a rebuff from Syria.

REUTERS

JERUSALEM—British Prime Minister Tony Blair brings his consensus-building efforts to Israel and the Palestinian leadership on Thursday, hoping to calm a conflict that is unsettling the US-led coalition against terrorism.

Having won little sympathy for the attacks on Afghanistan from Syrian and Saudi leaders on the first stops of his tour of the Middle East, Blair was to meet Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in Jerusalem and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in Gaza, Israeli and Palestinian officials said.

Washington and its allies see reviving peacemaking between Israel and the Palestinians as important to shoring up Arab and Muslim support for the pursuit of Osama bin Laden, their prime suspect for September's attacks in the United States.

The task has become all the more formidable with a surge in bloodshed since Israeli troops advanced into or around major Palestinian cities in the West Bank after Palestinian militants killed an Israeli Cabinet minister on Oct. 17.

In Syria, President Bashar al-Assad defended anti-Israel militant groups, which Israel accuses of terrorism.

On Wednesday, Israeli forces killed six Palestinians, one of them a militant who died in a planned missile strike, in various incidents across the West Bank.

Israeli gunfire wounded four Palestinians during fighting in the Gaza Strip overnight, Palestinian sources said.

In an initial nod to both sides, Blair told reporters after talks with Saudi leaders in Riyadh on Wednesday that Britain sought "security for Israel, justice and equality of treatment for Palestinians and a Palestinian state."

"Those two fixed points are the basis for proper negotiations," he said. Blair began his tour in Damascus on Wednesday and was to meet Jordan's King Abdullah in Amman on Thursday before heading to Israel and to Gaza.

Israeli troops remained in their recently taken positions in the West Bank, defying international calls for a complete withdrawal, after pulling back from the biblical city of Bethlehem and the town of Beit Jala on Monday.

Israel is demanding the Palestinian Authority crack down on militants, including the suspected killers of Tourism Minister Rehavam Zeevi, before carrying out further withdrawals.

Palestinian officials said nearly 50 militants from various factions had been arrested in Gaza.

The US State Department was seeking "a way for both sides to take steps against the violence," a spokesperson said.

"Clearly, we want to see the Israelis withdraw completely and we want to see Chairman Arafat and the Palestinian Authority to take immediate steps to identify and to bring to justice those responsible for the violence," Richard Boucher added.

In Jerusalem, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met Sharon to discuss a possible meeting between the dovish Peres and Arafat in Spain this weekend. *Reuters*

Whoever wins will see Jaipur for prosthetics

By Vijay Thakur

JAIPUR—Whether it is Taliban or the Northern Alliance troops fighting ground battles in Afghanistan—they will have a reason to look to this city, which is famed for prosthetics (commonly known as Jaipur foot) to give their soldiers who have lost limbs during the war.

The Indian Government has already announced that 15,000 Jaipur foot—a Magsaysay award winning project—would be donated to the future Afghanistan government to help people maimed in the decade long turmoil in Afghanistan.

There are already more than 1,100 soldiers fitted with Jaipur foot, both from Taliban and from Northern alliance armies, who are fighting the Afghan war. "They used to come with their automatic weapons and crutches, deposit the weapon in our store, give us their measurements.

"After two hours they would rush back to the battle ground on Jaipur foot carrying their automatic weapons," recalled Om Prakash, the team leader of the Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti, which organized two camps in Afghanistan to provide Jaipur foot to people who lost their legs during war or in mine blasts.

Jaipur foot is perhaps the only hope for the handicapped people of Afghanistan for there is no better artificial limbs available in the world that could suit the pocket of Afghan people. While the artificial foot from Jaipur would cost about $20, artificial limbs available in Europe and America cost between $1,040 and $2,080, says Prakash.

The Samiti has already fitted about 12,000 Jaipur foot in more than 20 countries, mostly Muslims, where people lost their limbs in war. "I have visited Afghanistan twice, Bangladesh thrice, Indonesia thrice, Philippines five times, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Kenya and Somalia. And in almost all places we came across landmine victims or those who lost their limbs during war" said Prakash.

Jaipur foot is known for its cost effectiveness and reliability, and a handicapped fitted with Jaipur foot can run, drive vehicle and carry heavy load, He said. Even a pair of good shoes costs more than the artificial limb prepared by the Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti.

During its 27-year-old history, the Samiti has made more than 522,000 artificial fitments in India including more than 220,000 artificial limbs. "But yet our biggest achievement is the tremendous demand from the third world countries where most of the landmine victims live.

"We are prepared to meet any challenge, if they demand more than 15,000 artificial limbs we will make it and fit it in Afghanistan. But they have to give us some time", said Col. Mahavir Singh, administrator of the Samiti, the pioneering organization in making Jaipur foot.

The Statesman/Asia News Network

IAEA sounds alarm on nuke terror threat

VIENNA—The UN's nuclear watchdog meets in special session Friday to press for an urgent response to new terror threats since Sept. 11, including the risk that Islamic extremists could build an atomic bomb.

The danger that terrorists could slam an aircraft into a nuclear power plant, or build an atomic "dirty bomb" using stolen radioactive material, are also high on the agenda of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) meeting.

"The willingness of terrorists to commit suicide to achieve their evil aims makes the nuclear terrorism threat far more likely than it was before Sept. 11," said IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei ahead of the meeting.

"There have been two nuclear shocks to the world already—the Chernobyl accident and the IAEA's discovery of Iraq's clandestine nuclear weapons program. It will be vital we do all in our power to prevent the third."

The nuclear threat was underlined only this week when US authorities imposed an air exclusion zone around 86 nuclear power facilities, saying it had credible information that they could be targeted.

The IAEA, which monitors nuclear power facilities worldwide, says governments will have to pay to improve security, calling for an increase of up to $50 million, or 15 percent, of its annual budget.

The Vienna-based body's annual meeting in September, coincidentally only days after the terror attacks in New York and Washington, was overshadowed by the new nuclear threat.

The threat of a terrorist nuclear bomb will be among key issues for discussion Friday.

"Although terrorists have never used a nuclear weapon, reports that some terrorist groups, particularly al-Qaida, have attempted to acquire nuclear material is a cause of great concern," said a report ahead of the meeting.

It reported 175 cases of trafficking in nuclear material since 1993, albeit only 18 of weapons-grade material.

"Still, no scenario is impossible."

The IAEA appealed to the world's five formal nuclear powers—the US, Britain, France, China and Russia—as well as India, Pakistan and Israel, to "urgently review the safety and security of their nuclear weapons."

Meanwhile, with images of the New York attacks etched in the world's memory, delegates will broach the threat of a plane attack on a nuclear plant.

While playing down the immediate threat, especially given increased airline security since Sept. 11, the UN agency insists it must be taken seriously.

"The extent of damage that could be caused by the intentional crash of a large, fully fuelled jetliner into a nuclear reactor containment or other nuclear facilities is still a matter for analysis," said the report. *AFP*

Megawati warns against prolonged Afghan action

JAKARTA—Indonesia's president, leader of the world's largest Muslim nation, on Thursday called for a ceasefire in Afghanistan and warned prolonged military action could weaken global support for a war on terror.

Addressing an annual session of Indonesia's top assembly, Megawati Sukarnoputri urged an end to US-led strikes against Afghanistan during the upcoming Islamic fasting month and Christmas.

Megawati did not specifically mention the United States or the strikes against Islamic-ruled Afghanistan in her first progress report to the 700-member People's Consultative Assembly (MPR), but her message was clear.

"We urge military action . . . to find the suspected terrorists . . . not be continued during Ramadan and Christmas," she said, referring to the fasting month that begins in mid-November.

"Prolonged military action is not only counterproductive, but also can weaken the global coalition's joint effort to combat terrorism."

"We call for the need for a humanitarian pause to provide an opportunity to handle humanitarian aspects, and to find a way to find a solution via political and diplomatic means," she said, reiterating that Indonesia was opposed to terrorism.

The term humanitarian pause is effectively a ceasefire, and Jakarta has used the phrase for ceasefire in Aceh province, where it is fighting separatist rebels.

Indonesians follow a moderate version of Islam and the majority of the population oppose the US-led action in Afghanistan, launched in retaliation for Sept. 11 hijack attacks on New York and Washington that killed some 4,800 people.

Washington launched the strikes on Oct. 7 after accusing Saudi-born militant Osama bin Laden, who is based in Afghanistan, of masterminding the hijack attacks.

Megawati backed the US war on terrorism at a meeting with President George W. Bush in Washington not long after the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States. *Reuters*

Macau may no longer be Stanley Ho enclave

MACAU—Ready to end a four-decade monopoly for gambling magnate Stanley Ho, Macau will start taking bids Friday for casino licenses—and some Las Vegas figures have indicated they'd like to get in on the action.

Despite facing competition for the first time since 1962, Ho hopes for the foreseeable future to remain the dominant player in the industry that is the backbone of Macau's economy.

The fate of Ho's 11 casinos, run by his company The Macau Tourism and Amusement Co. Ltd., is yet unclear but it is widely expected that Ho's bid for a new license will be successful.

Macau officials say they are liberalizing the gaming industry in the hopes that competition will improve it. Gaming tax accounts for roughly half of the government's revenue.

Macau has said 22 companies have expressed interest in bidding. Four US companies—the Macau-Las Vegas East Development Corp. Inc., Crown Group Inc., the Venetian and the MGM Mirage—are among them.

Other interested parties include Aspinall's Club Ltd. from Britain, Malaysia's Genton International Consortium Ltd., and various joint ventures including one made up of investors from Hong Kong, the Philippines and New Zealand.

Macau will award three casino licenses next year, after meeting individually with groups that submit their bids by the deadline of Dec. 7, Secretary for Economy and Finance Francis Tam Pak-yuen said in statement.

Most of the gamblers in Macau come from nearby Hong Kong, where casinos are outlawed. Macau was returned from Portugal to China in 1999 but continues to operate under a great deal of autonomy. *AP*

BOBBING SCULPTURE

AP

Tim Hulbert swims out to get a better look at a sculpture called "Bobbing Bod" by Nigel Washington as it floats in the Pacific Ocean off Sydney's Bondi Beach Nov. 1. The sculpture and 47 other shore-based works comprise an exhibition called "Sculpture by the Sea."

'Pharming' raises contraceptive corn, healthy tobacco

BERKELEY, California—In a greenhouse tucked away in Indianapolis flourishes corn being engineered to provide the active ingredients in gels that fight herpes and kill sperm.

On 11 hectares of Kentucky farmland grows tobacco that someday may actually help fight cancer.

And in the tiny northern California farming town of Live Oak, rice laced with disease-fighting antibiotics usually found in mother's milk sprouts on a four-hectare paddy.

It's called molecular farming, and it's blossoming at biotechnology startups across the country.

The idea is to implant human genes into crops to grow disease-fighting proteins, which can then be extracted and turned into profitable drugs and therapies.

Some companies trick crops into accepting human genes spliced into the plants' DNA. Seeking to produce a contraceptive, Epicyte Pharmaceuticals Inc. is splicing into corn a genetic defect found in some women, with the aim of making the plant generate a protein that kills sperm.

Another company, Large Scale Biology Corp., sprays plant viruses injected with human genes onto tobacco plants; the resulting infections produce cancer-fighting human antibodies.

Molecular farming offers an elementary, yet revolutionary proposition: It seeks to "grow" human therapies in the fields and crack the antibody drug market, which had $2 billion in sales last year and is expected to grow to $8 billion by 2004.

Some biotech companies have been able to grow antibodies—disease-fighting proteins that protect the body—in labs and turn them into drugs. Proponents say molecular farming could significantly cut the costs of developing such substances.

Ten genetically engineered antibody drugs are on the market today, all developed using mice. Among the best known is Herceptin, which is used in treating some breast cancers and made by Genentech.

It took Genentech, Novartis, MedImmune and other companies decades of research and hundreds of millions of dollars to persuade the Food and Drug Administration that these drugs would not harm humans. All ten are mass-produced in state-of-the-art laboratories in huge vats—called bioreactors—after the antibodies have been extracted from the mice where they are manufactured.

Typically, it takes $100 million to $500 million and up to 10 years to discover, develop and deliver a single such drug. *AP*

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Dictatorship martyrs remembered in Iloilo

BY NESTOR P. BURGOS
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Hundreds of Ilonggos gathered at the Carmelite Monastery here over the weekend to pay tribute to more than 300 lives lost during the struggle against the dictatorship of the dead strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

Most of those who attended the gathering lost a father, mother, daughter, son, brother or sister. Religious, human rights, former political detainees and advocacy groups also joined the gathering.

Alma Salarda, regional council member of the human rights group Panay Alliance-Karapatan, said most of those who died were farmers. But many others were students, workers and professionals who joined the underground movement during martial law and after the Edsa revolution of 1986.

Erlinda Togonon, 39, lost her parents and a brother. Her mother, Coronacion Chiva-Togonon, was 51 years old when gunned down by members of the defunct Philippine Constabulary in 1977 in their hometown in Calinog, 39 kilometers from Iloilo City. Her 68 year-old father, Andres, died in an ambush by policemen in 1985.

Both parents fought in the anti-Japanese war as guerrillas of the Hukbo ng Bayan Laban sa Hapon and they later joined the New People's Army.

Forgotten

"I thought the real heroes, our martyrs, will be forgotten through the years," a tearful Erlinda said.

"I'm not afraid and ashamed of them because they died for a worthy cause. I will always be proud of them," she said.

Lucy de la Fuente, 70, who teaches at the Central Philippine University, came with husband Johhny for their two sons who were killed during martial law.

John Herbert was only 26 years old when he died in 1983 while his brother Edward Oliver died in 1984. He was 29 years old. Edward bore torture marks when his body was found after government soldiers captured him in a raid.

"Our tears have a different meaning when we come together every year. We make ourselves stronger," said De la Fuente.

She said despite lingering problems, "we are fortunate to have the opportunity to hold gatherings which was impossible during the martial law years."

Many others were killed even after the fall of the dictatorship.

Justice elusive

For 68-year-old Faustina Caro, justice remains elusive for her husband, Valeriano, and son, Rolito. Valeriano was 60 year old when he was abducted with Rolito from their home in Oton town, 11 km from here. They were picked up by a truckload of soldiers in 1987 and killed.

Valeriano was then the chair of the farmers' group Kahublagan sang Mangunguma sa Isla sang Panay.

"Some of those who shot them have already died. But none of the killers were brought to jail," said Faustina Caro.

The annual gathering of relatives started in 1995 when human rights groups joined the relatives in visiting the graves of the martyrs during All Souls' Day. Since then, more relatives turned up every year.

"We must continue to educate the people, especially the younger generations, on who were those who fought the dictatorship and paid the ultimate price," said Alma Salarda of Panay Alliance-Karapatan whose husband Rogelio was killed a few months after the 1986 Edsa revolution.

"Our ultimate tribute to them is (to) continue to fight for their dreams and to live on their lives," said Jeffrey Celiz, chair of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in Panay.

After years of holding the gatherings alternately in homes of the relatives of those who died, the annual gathering will soon have a permanent venue.

On Oct. 17, the Iloilo City Council unanimously approved a resolution to allot a portion of the historic Plaza Libertad here for a monument for the martyrs in the anti-martial law struggle.

The resolution noted, "... a symbol, such as a monument or marker can best stand as a reminder for all the ignominy of the Marcos dictatorship and the heroism of those who chose to sacrifice their lives for the noble struggle against the dictatorship."

The resolution was sponsored by city councilor Rita Bascos-Sarabia who was imprisoned as a student activist during martial law for six criminal cases, including rebellion.

"Many sons and daughters—young lives—offered their lives or were imprisoned to keep the torch of freedom burning," said Sarabia.

New quarry exec told to avoid controversies

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed a new chief of the Natural Resources Development Corp.'s lahar project and instructed him to "avoid controversies" in the quarry industry in Pampanga.

Among the expectations in the NRDC's change of leadership are reforms and "to spare the President from embarrassment," said Agapito Guanlao, newly appointed chief of the NRDC lahar project.

Guanlao's name surfaced after provincial officials complained that he issued provisional receipts on Monday night, making it difficult for the provincial government to monitor the actual quarry collections.

Guanlao said he ordered the issuance of barangay receipts for at least P24,000-worth of collections because in an unannounced inspection that night in Sta. Rita and along the western section of the FVR Megadike, an operator supplied sand for 80 trucks without obtaining tax receipts from the NRDC.

Every cent, he said, was properly issued a receipt on Tuesday.

He did not say if instances like this has embarrassed the President but confirmed that the province's quarry industry was "really (in) a mess."

He said the lahar project, which generates between P8 million and P10 million in monthly revenues, could contribute more earnings to the government if not for the weaknesses in monitoring and collection. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Group of boys makes a living out of the dead

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—These boys are not used to making a living out of the dead. They just want to buy themselves Christmas gifts.

With brooms, pieces of cloth, small paint brushes, pints of black paint, pieces of sandpaper, scrubbing brushes and gallons of water, they roam around a memorial park here looking for clients.

Their working capital: P200. But they had predicted that they would earn at least P300 each.

They are Ally, 14; Mark, 12; and Reynon, Kakang, Almer and Angelbert, all 10 years old. They are residents of Barangay Bulua.

Reynon, Kakang, Almer and Angelbert, all fourth graders at the Bulua Central School, want to buy themselves early Christmas gifts—toy pellet shotguns.

Ally, a sophomore at the Barangay National High School and the fourth of nine siblings, wanted something that he has been longing for the past two years—a pair of white Adidas shoes with blue lines. He said a pair costs about P290.

Mark, a sixth grader, is still undecided. He said he would save his money until he can think of something worth buying.

Ally, the eldest of the group, does the "sales talk," convincing relatives of the dead to have their niches cleaned, repainted and polished.

The boys' asking fee varies from a minimum of P30 to as high as P100, depending on the work to be done.

They start with cleaning the surface of graves, wiping it dry, then repainting. Sometimes they use their small fingers to trace and repaint the letters and designs of the tombs.

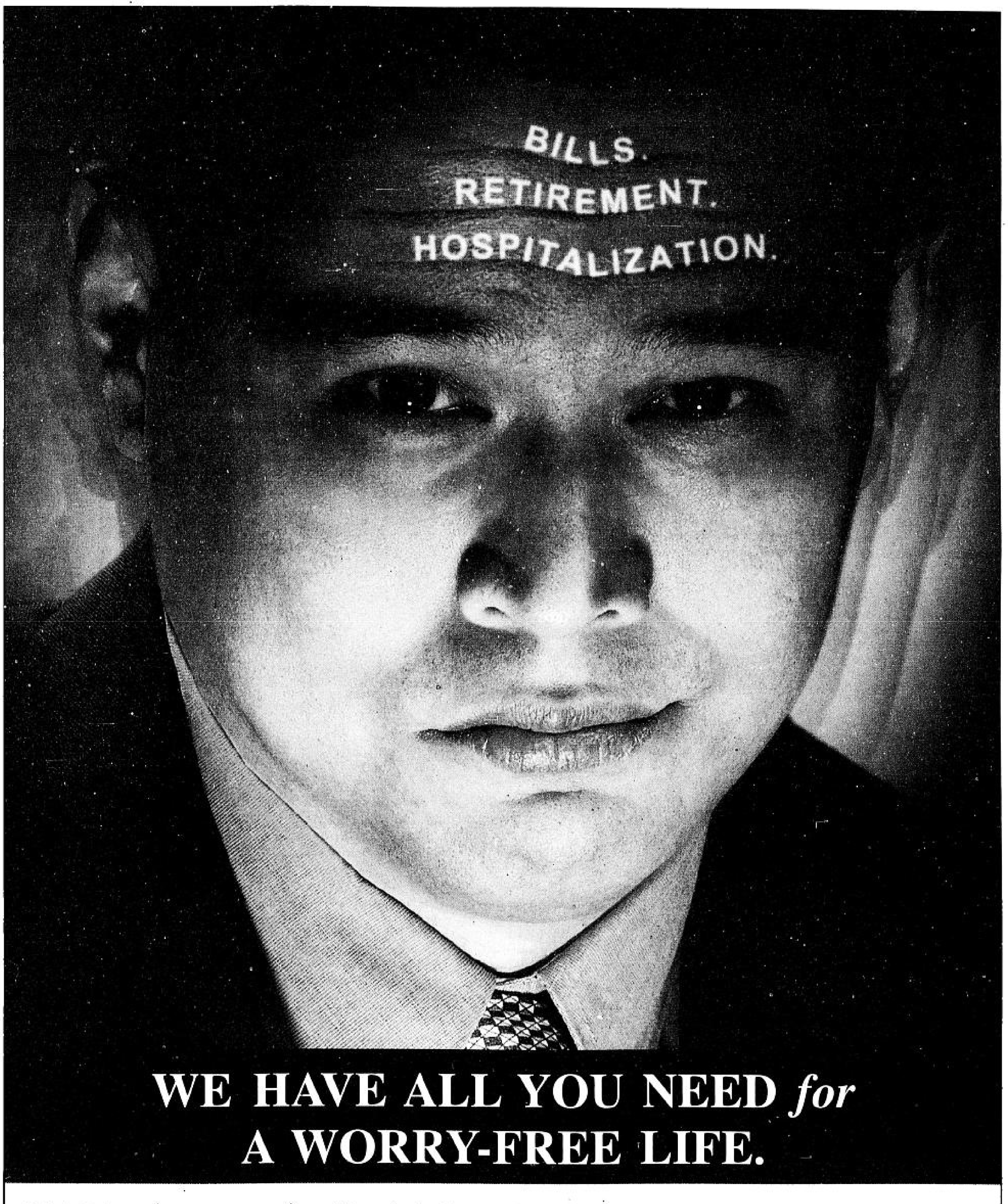
They wait for 10 minutes for the paint to dry. Then they again wash the tombs with water. With sandpaper in hand, they end the job with polishing, removing paint blots.

Working as a team, Ally and Reynon do the dirty work, while the rest of the gang serve as assistants and errand boys. They split into two or three groups when there are more work to be done. The younger boys usually do the "preliminary work" for "waiting customers." This way, work will not go to their competitors.

Asked why they chose to venture in a memorial park rather than in the public cemetery, the boys said it is where rich people are.

For them, rich people do not ask them to lower their working fees.

They also said it is *samok* (chaotic) in the public cemetery. *Butch D. Enerio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*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Immigration bureau gets help from FBI in anti-terror bid

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The United States' Federal Bureau of Investigation is helping the Bureau of Immigration in establishing here the proposed Philippine Immigration Academy.

The project is part of continuing joint efforts to prevent the country from becoming a haven of terrorists, alien criminals and fugitives, Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said here Tuesday.

Domingo said the FBI would provide the academy, which will be set up inside the Clark Polytechnic complex here starting next month, with instructors and training materials.

She said it would be operated on a P10-million fund from the bureau's P200-million budget next year.

The courses would be mainly offered to some 900 immigration and intelligence personnel of the bureau. Selected courses will be offered to travel agencies to help them screen "undesirable aliens."

She said the academy, proposed since last year, would also save money and time for the bureau which relied heavily on trainings held abroad.

Domingo said the academy would also help strengthen the "crucial role" of the bureau in the country's peace and order campaign.

"It will contribute to efforts in stamping out terrorists, alien criminals and fugitives," she said.

The FBI, according to her, had been assisting the bureau through the exchange of information and provision of equipment, which she did not specify.

"We really lack the resources in our counter-terrorism drive," she told reporters here.

"Very good" was how she described the bureau's relationship with the FBI.

Speaking during the induction of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport Press Corps here, Domingo also dispelled claims made by an internationally published book that the Philippines has become a favorite haven of fugitives.

The book, according to her, made false claims that the country had been a "sanctuary because the people are nice, the cost of living is low and fugitives can get out of the (reach of the) law through some resources."

The bureau, according to her, had been "very careful and very vigilant" with its work and is still on the watch for suspected terrorists using fraudulent or stolen travel documents from Saudi Arabia.

At least 90 percent of 180 international terrorists identified by the FBI used fake passports and visas from Saudi Arabia, she said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

THE LIVING AND THE DEAD TOOTS SOBERANO

Vagabonds, they're more commonly called. They are common sights on the streets of Baguio City and other urban areas. So common that not many people would pause to ponder what these beings' lives are like. They are sometimes referred to as the dead among the living.

Balweg supporters accuse Speaker of offering ₱10-M bribe to rebels

BAGUIO CITY—Supporters of slain rebel priest Conrado Balweg had accused Speaker Jose de Venecia of dangling a P10-million "bribe offer" to compel three feuding factions of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army to unify under the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

In a three-page letter to De Venecia, CPLA legal counsel Nestor Atitiw fell short of saying that the Speaker could face contempt charges for his "meddling," because of a pending Supreme Court case, which asserts the constitutionality of a 15-year-old peace agreement between Balweg and the government.

Balweg and former President Corazon Aquino entered into a *sipat* (ceasefire agreement) on Sept. 15, 1986, which helped draw up Executive Order 220, the law creating the Cordillera Administrative Region.

That law converted the CPLA's political organization, the Cordillera Bodong Administration (CBAd), into a government commission.

The CPLA went to the Supreme Court last year when ousted President Joseph Estrada terminated three Cordillera governing agencies, including the CBAd, "in violation of the *sipat* terms," Atitiw said.

He said the CPLA could be forced to ask the High Court to hold De Venecia and the Macapagal administration in contempt for issuing policy statements that affect the nature of the 1986 *sipat*.

He said a misrepresented CPLA agreement, which De Venecia allegedly instigated, could have serious legal repercussions before the high court.

Jet Sagudang, Balweg's replacement following his assassination on New Year's Eve in 1999, and tribal elder Mariano Agosto, CBAd chair, were supposed to be signatories to an Oct. 12 "Covenant of Unification" with Rafael Wasan and Leo Kigis, their counterparts in the CPLA factions led by Abra town mayor Mailed Molina and former rebel Jimmy Sawatang.

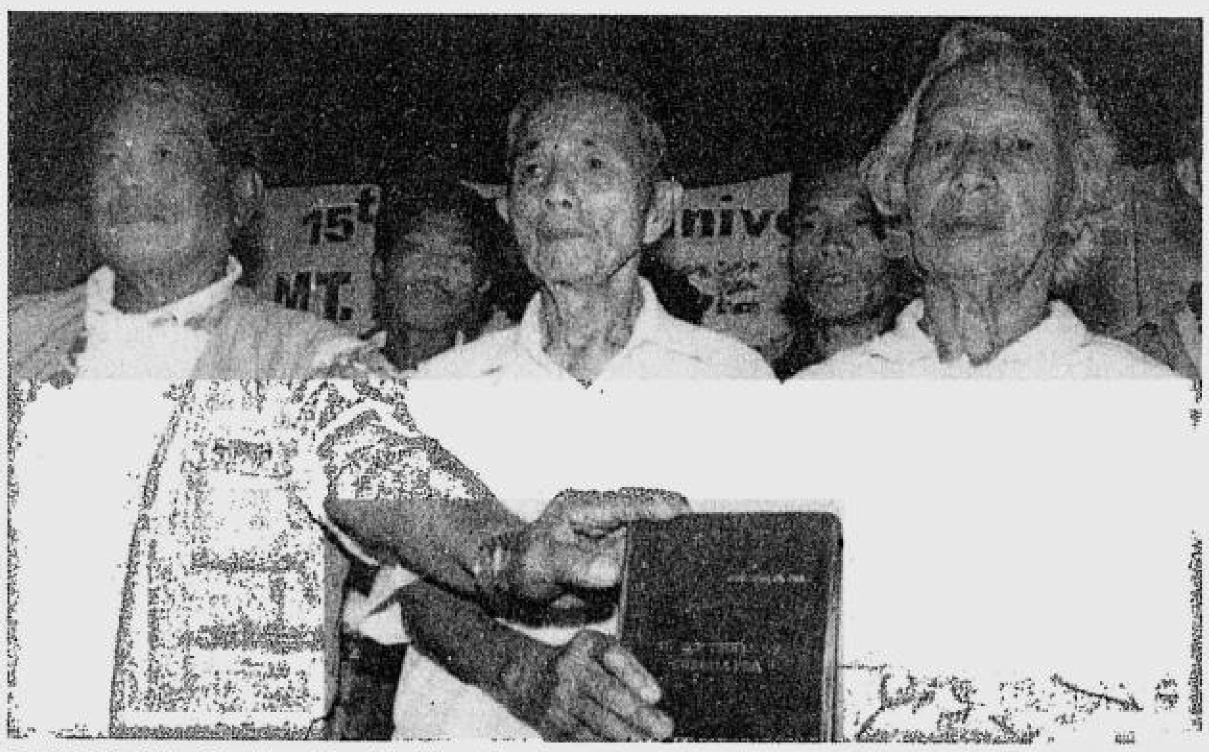
The INQUIRER obtained a copy of the supposed covenant from Lt. Col. Juanito Dalmas, commanding officer of the 17th Infantry Battalion based in Lagangilang, Abra.

But Sagudang disowned the document, and said his meeting with the other faction leaders was intended to promote a "mutual existence" pact that would end any perceived hostilities.

The factions led by Molina and Sawatang have already agreed to be integrated into the AFP, guided by Administrative Order 18 signed by President Macapagal in Tabuk, Kalinga on Sept. 1.

De Venecia offered the money to the Cordillera Regional Assembly on Sept. 16, in exchange for guarantees that the feuding militiamen would be reunited within 90 days, Atitiw claimed.

"(The CPLA) has no objection (to) the release of the promised amount, but (we) would like to clarify matters so that your good office will not be misled… if the amount is intended for the unification of the (CPLA factions), there is no factual basis to pursue any unification attempt because, in reality, the Molina and Sawatang factions do not legally exist as an organization," Atitiw said in his letter to De Venecia. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



LEADERS of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army show off a Bible, one of three tokens offered by former President Corazon Aquino to slain rebel priest Conrado Balweg in 1986 when both signed the first peace agreement after 20 years of Marcos rule. They held a low-key celebration of the peace pact's 15th year anniversary here on Sept. 15. EV ESPIRITU

Sayyaf main reason for French travel warning

By Connie E. Fernandez
PDI Visayas Bureau

MACTAN, Cebu—A French government advisory warning its citizens against traveling to the Philippines would stay until the Philippines continues to be plagued by the bandit group Abu Sayyaf.

French Ambassador to the Philippines Gilles Chouraqui said on Tuesday that the travel advisory will be lifted if the peace and order situation in Mindanao improves.

"If I feel safe to travel to Zamboanga, then the situation is changed," he said. "The situation will change when the Abu Sayyaf problem will be solved."

Chouraqui was in Cebu on Oct. 23 to grace the opening of the Cine Europa, a two-day film festival that showcased movies from nine European countries.

The French government has issued a travel advisory urging their nationals to avoid traveling to Mindanao and Palawan following the kidnapping of tourists in Dos Palmas in Palawan in May.

New advisory

It was later modified after the Sept. 11 attack on the United States. The new advisory admonished French nationals into taking extra precautions when visiting the Philippines.

Chouraqui said the travel advisory was just a precautionary measure because the Philippines could be one of the targets of terrorists because it is a member of the international coalition against terrorism.

"Because of this, countries (that are part of the coalition against terrorism) think that there can be some reactions from terrorists," Chouraqui said.

In the case of the Philippines, he noted that the country has fallen victim to terrorist attacks. There is also a reported link between the Abu Sayyaf and Osama bin Laden, the suspected mastermind in the terrorist attacks in the United States.

"In France we have taken specific measure (to thwart any terrorist attacks). We have enforced a security plan," he said. "In the Philippines too, I notice you also have this kind of thing."

'Perfectly safe'

Chouraqui said he felt "terribly sad" about the travel advisory because it also affects other places in the country that are "perfectly safe" like Cebu.

When asked why the travel advisory had to include Palawan and other provinces in Mindanao when the Abu Sayyaf problem is confined only to the islands of Basilan and Jolo, Chouraqui replied: "The travel advisory is prepared by people who are rather far from the Philippines. They don't see things so precisely."

He also said the Abu Sayyaf bandits had kidnapped people from other places, like Sipadan, Malaysia, and run to their havens in either Jolo or Basilan.

"No tourist has ever come to Basilan in the last 20 years," he said.

In the case of Palawan, he said, it was included in the travel advisory because of its nearness to Mindanao and because of the Dos Palmas kidnapping.

Chouraqui admitted that they were sensitive about the Abu Sayyaf after the bandits kidnapped eight of their nationals last year.

Five of the French kidnapping victims were among the 22 tourists taken from a resort in Sipadan. Three others were journalists who covered the Sipadan hostage crisis but were later taken hostage, too.

57 bets seek election in ARMM polls

JOLO, Sulu—At least 57 candidates are running for election in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The elections are expected to proceed on Nov. 26 unless Congress passes a law to stop it.

Basilan and the city of Marawi, both of which opted to be part of the ARMM in a plebiscite Aug. 14, are taking part in the elections for the first time.

Amid fears that he may be disqualified due to lack of residence and his foreign citizenship, Dr. Farouk Hussin, administration candidate for governor, has the support of both the Lakas and the Partido ng Masang Pilipino in Sulu.

But sympathizers of Hussin are quick to say that no such objections were made to the candidacy of Gov. Nur Misuari when he ran for the post just two weeks after he signed a peace agreement with the Philippine government.

Misuari then was believed to have a foreign passport.

Misuari has not filed a certificate of candidacy and is calling for the postponement of the elections, which has been postponed twice before. Incumbent officials of the ARMM are currently on a holdover capacity.

The current candidates are composed of former and incumbent local government officials. Some are neophytes, but most come from known political clans.

There are only three seats for each district in the regional legislative assembly. *Noralyn Mustafa, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Move over 'super tilapia,' fisheries agency now developing 'super bangus'

By Yolanda Fuertes and Gobleth Moulic
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—If the Science City of Muñoz has super *tilapia*, this city, dubbed as the country's *bangus* (milkfish) capital, has super *bangus*.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources has brought here *sabalos* (breeder milkfish) from different *bangus* producing areas in the country and has developed a world-class species of milkfish called Philbangus.

Westly Rosario, research center chief, said the development of Philbangus is a project being undertaken under the national milkfish breeding program that seeks to re-establish Dagupan as a premier producer of *bangus* fingerlings.

Since the project started, the BFAR has produced 1.2 million *bangus* fry and 225,000 fingerlings and had distributed them to various coastal communities, government offices and fishermen in Pangasinan, he said.

Fishery experts here also came up with a *bangus* that weighs nine kilos.

With the success of the Philbangus project, the BFAR aims to produce fingerlings numerous enough to supply the entire island of Luzon in three years, Rosario said.

Dagupan City started to import fingerlings from Southeast Asian countries after mangrove areas in the region were destroyed, adversely affecting the fingerling industry.

Fishpond and fish pen operators have to buy their inputs from other provinces or from countries that used to smuggle fingerlings out of the Philippines into their areas.

Currently, the center has four tanks stocked with 115 broodstock (male and female breeders) and has 1,300 stocks in waiting at the BFAR station in Sual town.

The stocks in Sual are four years old and will be sexually mature in a year's time (*bangus* mature sexually in five years), Rosario said.

BFAR stations in Iloilo and Cebu are giving out hundreds of their *sabalos* to the Dagupan center but Rosario said he still has to prepare more tanks to accommodate the increasing number of breeders being sent to the Dagupan center.

Senior aquaculturist Cordelia Nipales, who is in charge of the *bangus* breeding project, said the broodstock are implanted with hormones so they could continuously spawn.

"*Bangus* are seasonal spawner, usually (they spawn) from May to October. But with hormones, they can spawn (all) year round, from 14 to 16 days monthly. A kilogram of *sabalo* produces about 200,000 eggs, which means a five-kilo *sabalo* would produce one million eggs a year," she said.

From the tanks, the eggs are collected and transferred to the larval rearing tanks for hatching after 18 days (the survival rate is 52 percent) when they are ready for disposal.

The BFAR, which sells the fingerlings at 20 centavos less than the prevailing prices of commercial fingerlings, cannot cope with a rising number of orders, Nipales said.

The center here has produced 2.3 million fry, with 1.4 million of them sold to private fish cultivators.

To maintain the broodstock, they are given a high-protein diet, vitamins and fish oil daily.

The water, drawn and filtered from the sea by pipes, is changed every day to maintain its salinity.

"But during (the) rainy season when the seawater has low salinity, we cannot draw water from the sea which is why we are building a big reservoir to store seawater," Rosario said.

The center's breeders come from the BFAR's regional outreach center in Alaminos (46 stocks); BFAR's research station in Sual (66); University of the Philippines Brackishwater Aquaculture Center in Iloilo (49), and the BFAR research station in Tiwi, Albay (36).

The breeders are put in a tank according to where they were taken from to find out which are the most productive and which will give quality eggs, Nipales said.

Stunned by terrorist attacks, US economy shrinks in 3rd Q

WASHINGTON—The US economy, stunned by the terrorist attacks, contracted for the first time in eight years in the July-September quarter, government figures showed Wednesday.

Gross domestic product (GDP) declined at an annual rate of 0.4 percent in the quarter—the first drop since 1993 and the steepest since 1991, the commerce department said.

US President George W. Bush said the news showed the Sept. 11 onslaught had "really shocked the nation."

He urged lawmakers to move swiftly as they consider an economic stimulus package, and to include tax cuts while ensuring spending remained focused.

"The Congress needs to pass the stimulus package and get it to my desk before the end of November," Bush said.

Wall Street economists had been forecasting a GDP slump of one percent as the Sept. 11 terrorist onslaught shattered confidence and eroded consumer spending.

GDP grew 0.3 percent in the second quarter.

"You are seeing the economy shrinking in the third quarter so it is bad news, probably indicating the US economy moved into a recession in the third quarter," Harris Bank economist Paul Ferley said.

"However, the extent of the decline is not that marked," he added.

Economists widely tip a sharp fall in GDP in the fourth quarter. Two quarters of negative growth are the definition of a recession.

But US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill said the economy could still grow in the fourth quarter.

"I think if we can get the stimulus bill in place quickly there is still a plausible argument that the fourth quarter could be mildly positive," he told reporters at the White House.

Wall Street fell after initially giving the figures a cautious welcome. The blue-chip Dow Jones industrials index dropped 46.84 points, or 0.51 percent, to close at 9,075.14.

The third-quarter GDP decline was released just a day after a private Conference Board survey showed US consumer confidence plummeted to a seven-year low in October.

Confidence is critical to consumer spending, which accounts for two-thirds of US economic activity.

The labor department will release on Friday October figures, which are expected to show hundreds of thousands of lost jobs and a jobless rate of at least 5 percent, after 4.9 percent in September.

GDP in the third quarter fell because of slower consumer spending, a decline in household and business investment and a drawdown in inventories, the latest figures showed.

Consumer spending in the third quarter edged up 1.2 percent, the smallest rise since 1993, after a 2.5-percent rise the previous quarter.

The US economy would inevitably decline further in the fourth quarter, Conference Board economist Ken Goldstein said.

"Without the tax cuts and with the deepening of the gloom in terms of consumer confidence, the 0.4-percent decline for the third quarter will turn into at least a 1.5-percent decline in the fourth quarter," Goldstein said.

Investment by businesses plunged 11.9 percent in the third quarter, in addition to a 14.6-percent drop in the second quarter.

But businesses also cut inventories by $50.4 billion in the third quarter, indicating that stockpiles have finally come down to reasonable levels and opening up the prospect of stronger growth ahead as businesses lift orders for new goods.

A key index of manufacturing activity in the US midwest—the Chicago purchasing managers index—eased in October to 46.2 points from 46.6 the month before, the Chicago Purchasing Management Association said.

A reading below 50 points indicates a decline in economic activity.

"It shows that the economy is still soft, and that the impact of Sept. 11 will take a while to work through the economy," said Jack Bishop, president of Kingsbury International, which compiles the index. *AFP*

"**HOLIDAY** economics" mode for the First Family: From left, playful father and daughter Luli; off-to-Baguio with smiles to go; and the Arroyo womenfolk are arm-in-arm cozy.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Lucio Tan back in limelight with GMA

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

TAIPAN Lucio Tan shared the limelight Wednesday night with the successor of Joseph Estrada, his once closest ally.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, returning from a three-day state visit to China, momentarily deviated from her arrival speech to make special mention of Tan.

"And I'm very happy—where is he?" she said, beaming while searching the audience for Tan, "that as a result of multilateral and peanut-gallery consultations in the economy class of the Philippine Airlines, we will now have the finalization of the agreement for the rehabilitation of the Philippine National Bank."

Surrounded by other Chinese-Filipino businessmen and with all eyes turned on him, Tan smiled back at and bowed slightly to the President. He had been part of the official business delegation to China.

Tan and the government have been in deadlock for the past year on how the PNB, which he controls, can pay back its P15-billion and P10-billion loans from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Philippine Deposit Insurance Inc.

The PNB got the loan in October last year, during the Estrada administration.

One of the deals reportedly worked out by finance officials was for the government to buy back from Tan a portion of his 70-percent equity in the bank. In exchange, the BSP was to cut by half the PNB's P15-billion debt.

However, the two sides reportedly could not agree on the buying price of the PNB shares.

During the press conference, the President said the details of the final deal would be worked out by Finance Secretary Jose Camacho, who was not present at the arrival ceremonies.

"There were just a couple of things that were not clear, so I clarified them with Mr. Tan," the President said.

Asked by a reporter whether the deal was final, she turned to Tan and said: "Is that not right, Mr. Lucio Tan?"

She added: "*Plantsado na, ano* (It's done, isn't it), Mr. Tan?"

But Tan merely smiled back.

The President said she had sought Tan out in the economy class of the special PAL chartered flight to discuss the rehabilitation plan.

"And we talked, in front of everyone . . . with so many witnesses. The whole Chinese community was there," she said.

Known as Estrada's biggest campaign contributor, Tan joined most of the then President's overseas trips. During a visit to the United States, he even managed to join a reception that was strictly reserved for Estrada and his Cabinet.

Other known Estrada allies who joined Ms Macapagal's official party to China were Nueva Ecija Gov. Thomas Joson and businessmen William Gatchalian and Dante Go.

Tiglao: Facts, not coup rumors

(From page A1)

He cited a Pulse Asia survey conducted between Sept. 11 and Oct. 4 showing that 24 percent of the respondents chose the President as the "most trustworthy national leader."

"In contrast, only 1-2 percent of the respondents felt that opposition personalities such as (deposed President) Joseph Estrada (and Senators) Panfilo Lacson and Edgardo Angara are trustworthy leaders," he said in a statement.

Tiglao also described as "the height of understatement" Stratfor's point that any coup plot could not take hold at this time because the President's performance had "not stirred the anger of the nation."

"There has been an all-out opposition campaign against the President since she assumed power in January. Problems have beset the country that are beyond the government's control, such as the world economic slowdown and the terrorist attack against the United States," Tiglao said.

"Still, though, the President's overall approval rating has steadily improved from 47 percent in April to 63 percent by October," he added.

Tiglao was reacting to the analysis that Stratfor posted in its website Wednesday. The Texas-based think tank, which predicted in December 1999 Estrada's ouster, said Ms Macapagal's presidency would "remain secure in the near future" but that she "must treat any whisper of a coup seriously."

The President herself made no direct comment on the analysis of Stratfor, which also said that "barring some heinous act that would turn the public against her, such as involvement in corruption, she will likely complete her term."

"Well, we have a democracy here so . . . that's the way it works unless there is a very, very unusual reason," she said yesterday.

She also said a lot of good things were going for the country, particularly the economy's 3.4-percent growth during the first six months of the year.

But Tujan said the Oct. 1-27 Ibon survey showed that the President garnered a low 19.2-percent net approval rating even as most of the 350 respondents in Metro Manila said they were satisfied with her administration's performance so far.

The survey showed that 52.3 percent of the respondents felt that the government was doing well despite the economic and political crises, but a curious 33.1 percent showed dissatisfaction with the administration's performance.

'Take facts seriously'

To the headline "Take coup seriously" that the INQUIRER ran in its issue of Nov. 1, 2001, Tiglao retorted: "Take facts seriously."

"The entire point of the article was just that: the coup rumors are hogwash. We rest our case," he said of the report on the Stratfor analysis that, he pointed out, was headlined in the website as "Coup Rumors Likely False."

False or not, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva yesterday said the AFP was not taking the reports of a supposed coup plot lightly.

"We are taking it seriously," Villanueva said. "We are on alert, our troops are on vigil. Any attempt to topple the administration from power will not succeed. Our soldiers are more disciplined now."

Before Stratfor came out with its analysis, military and national security officials dismissed all talks of a coup plot as part of a "destabilization campaign."

Nevertheless, two leaders of the Young Officers Union, Superintendents Rafael Cardeño and Diosdado Valeroso, have been ordered transferred to provincial assignments.

Cardeño was earlier held in Camp Crame for about 10 hours, for questioning on his suspected involvement in a coup plot.

The President also said in the initial telecast last week of her new program, "May Gloria ang Bukas Mo," that she was the sort of leader who would nip "the shadow of a threat" in the bud.

Worsening economy

Tujan said the Ibon survey showed that 56 percent of Metro Manila residents believed that the economy worsened in the first three quarters of this year, and only 3.4 percent felt that the economy improved.

Nearly 40 percent of the respondents said the economy did neither better nor worse.

Many respondents also believed that their income was not enough to meet their daily needs, that there were not enough job opportunities in their areas, and that their livelihood had become worse since the President assumed office.

The survey also showed that 56.6 percent of the respondents felt that their income could not provide for their everyday needs, and 38.9 percent, that they could not find livelihood in their communities.

Another 42.3 percent of the respondents, who had sources of income, said their livelihood had become worse during the first three quarters of the year.

An overwhelming majority of the respondents, 82.9 percent, painted a dim picture of the economy in the next months in view of the US-led military action in Central Asia.

But Tiglao said the President weathered the political and economic storms that hit the country in the past nine months.

"Opposition forces have miserably failed to hoodwink Filipinos, and a groundswell of support for (the President) has emerged," he said, adding:

"Political stability has been firmly restored and, as the President emphasized, it is time to junk political bickering and unite to solve the problems the country is now confronting."

Tiglao also pointed out that the President's "six foreign trips in four months, her conversations with Asian and world leaders, and her performance in major international forums including the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation have firmly established her reputation as one of Asia's most intelligent and competent leaders."

'Doing very well'

Interior Secretary Joey Lina said there was no reason for the people not to support the administration given the high approval ratings received by the three branches of the government in recent surveys.

"We have been saying all along that the present leadership is doing very well in all areas of governance," he said. The President's net approval rating is very high and none among the Cabinet members registered a negative approval rating."

Lina also noted that even Congress and the judiciary posted positive ratings.

"There is no cause for anyone not to be supportive of the government. And lack of support is crucial in toppling any government," he said. ***With reports from Martin P. Marfil and Cathy C. Yamsuan***

GMA off to Baguio for 'very, very low-key holiday' with family

(From page A1)

attention.

The President, who returned to the country Wednesday night from her state visit in China, is scheduled to fly back Sunday morning to Manila. She will take an early afternoon flight to Brunei, where she will attend a two-day summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Traditionally referred to as the "President's time," the break will be the longest she will take since she assumed power on Jan. 20.

But she will continue to preside over affairs of state at the Mansion, which serves as the official presidential residence in the country's summer capital.

Along with Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, the President is scheduled to meet today with the ambassadors of the countries belonging to the US-led coalition engaged in military action against the ruling Taliban in Afghanistan.

"I will have lunch with the ambassadors of the countries that are active in the anti-terrorism coalition and then . . . probably dinner also with acting US Ambassador (Robert Fitts)," she said earlier yesterday in Manila.

During her state visit to China, the President said Asean would issue a statement against terrorism during its summit in Brunei.

Closest friends

The government source said the President was accompanied by some of her "closest friends."

She was said to have spent the whole of yesterday afternoon with the First Gentleman and their children Mikey, Luli and Dato at Camp John Hay, where she played golf.

The President has childhood roots in Baguio, and her romance here with her future husband has been an oft-repeated story among city residents.

The First Family owns a two-story house in a compound along Pacdal Road, which is a kilometer away from the Mansion and about 100 meters away from the St. Joseph Church, the President's favorite place of worship.

Lawyer Concepcion Luis, Baguio organizer of the political support group Kaibigan ni Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (KGMA), said Ms Macapagal walking from her house to the church was "not an uncommon sight" around Pacdal.

"This is really just private time for the President and we expect nothing from her except (for her) to relax," the government source said.

The source also said her "only break from her vacation" would be the second telecast of her new TV-radio program, "May Gloria ang Bukas Mo," which would be aired live tomorrow from the Mansion.

Holiday economics

In Manila, the President said she was considering declaring a seven-day, Christmas-to-New Year holiday this year.

She said the long holiday would not only give the people sufficient time to unwind but also stimulate local tourism and the demand for local goods and services.

The President said that in other countries, the practice of declaring extended vacations was called "holiday economics."

"I was thinking that since the people feel the slack anyway between Christmas and New Year, let's just make it a straight vacation. So let us try holiday economics," she said.

Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 are traditional holidays.

The President said she had started consultations on this plan, which, she noted, had been proven effective abroad.

"They have this in other countries because manufacturing, for example, slows down during these times. So what they do is stimulate domestic demand," she said.

The President earlier encouraged the people to take a long vacation in view of the fact that the annual commemoration of All Saints' Day fell in the middle of the week.

Malacañang earlier declared a half-day and full-day holiday for Oct. 31 and Nov. 2, thus extending the vacation up to the weekend.

The President said the experience of Boracay and Camiguin had shown that even with a decline in foreign tourist arrivals, domestic tourism could make up for tourism revenue losses.

Filipinos doubt coup plot reports, says Pulse Asia

(From page A1)

fore the latest coup rumors swept the metropolis. The rumors were sparked in part by Ms Macapagal's arrival ahead of schedule from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit in Shanghai on Oct. 19-21.

The survey showed that 44 percent of Filipinos do not believe the reports of a coup plot, while 42 percent believe the military can be relied upon to thwart any coup attempts. More rural folk, about 48 percent, do not believe the coup reports, while 40 percent of urban residents said they do not believe the military is plotting a coup.

A high percentage of respondents, however, said they were "undecided" about the reported coup plot. In the National Capital Region, 36 percent did not believe the report, while 35 percent said they were undecided. A high 29 percent believe the military was plotting against Ms Macapagal.

In Luzon, 38 percent of the respondents were undecided, as against 37 percent who disagreed with the report on coup tries. In Mindanao, 39 percent said they did not believe the coup reports, while 34 percent were undecided.

In the Visayas, an overwhelming percentage of the respondents—69 percent—believe the military is not plotting against the government, while only 19 percent said they were not sure about the military.

Going by age, a high percentage—40 percent—of the youth (18-24 years old) said they were not sure about the military, with 33 percent saying they did not believe a coup was in the offing. A high percentage—51 percent—in the 45-54 years old bracket said they disagreed with reports the military was plotting against Ms Macapagal.

"The undecided are crucial because in most instances, they are actually giving a negative answer to the question asked," Miranda said.

He said this was partly due to Filipino culture, which discourages one from saying something he thinks the other person wouldn't want to hear. To play it safe, the respondents simply say they are not sure or do not know.

Miranda pointed out that when asked if they trusted the military to repel any attempt to unseat Ms Macapagal, 42 percent of respondents nationwide said they trusted the military, but a high of 34 percent said they were not sure.

NCR residents—46 percent—said they trust the military, but 33 percent, or about one-third of the respondents, could not make up their minds.

Nationwide, a low of 27 percent of rural Visayas residents said they do not believe the military would repel any coup attempts, with 40 percent saying the military cannot be depended on to protect the President from being overthrown. In Luzon, 46 percent said they believe the military will bring down any coup plotters, with 39 percent in Mindanao agreeing that the military would protect Ms Macapagal.

But a high 37 percent in Mindanao said they were not sure the military would defend the President in case of a coup attempt. Rural Mindanao reported the highest—41 percent—percentage of doubt about the military's capability to fight off any coup attempt.

Among the "agree" groups, 47 percent of the senior citizens (65 years old and over) said the military could be relied upon to defend Ms Macapagal from any coup, while an average of 33 percent in all age brackets expressed doubts about the Armed Forces in case of an actual putsch.

A high percentage—53 percent—of the ABC economic group trusts the military in the event of a coup attempt, while 41 percent of respondents from the D and E classes believe the military could be relied on to repel a coup attempt.

"What the public is saying is there should not be any coup attempts now because we are facing terrible dangers. The feeling is working for the President," Miranda said.

But, he said, Ms Macapagal made a mistake when she invited police superintendents Diosdado Valeroso and Rafael Cardeño, founding chair and current chair, respectively, of the militant Young Officers' Union (YOU) to an Oct. 24 meeting in Malacañang.

He said the meeting actually gave the rumors official color.

Rumors also preceded the coup attempts during the administration of President Corazon Aquino from 1986 to 1992. Coup rumors also swept Manila late last year, culminating in the ouster of President Joseph Estrada in January this year.

Mutinous troops led by now Sen. Gregorio Honasan tried to unseat Ms Aquino in 1987 with 1,683 officers and men participating in the coup, and again in 1989, with 2,911 officers and men in tow. The 1989 coup attempt, considered the bloodiest, left 99 dead and 570 wounded, most of them civilians.

A peace agreement initialed in 1991 resulted in the release from prison of more than 1,000 officers and men, and their eventual reinstatement in the military and police. But the coup leaders, among them Honasan, opted to resign and avail of their separation benefits.

'As we light candles and pray for eternal peace'

(From page A1)

nation in typically festive fashion—with flowers, mahjong sets, karaoke machines and alcohol.

Families pitched tents for an overnight picnic in cemeteries that had taken on a carnival-like atmosphere.

Despite warnings from police that gambling was prohibited, many brought along mahjong sets and decks of cards as they lit candles and laid flowers on tombs.

Vendors, hawking anything from toys, towels and paper fans to food and soft drinks, also crowded cemetery gates and jostled for customers under the searing glare of the sun.

But security was much tighter this year, reflecting the heightened tensions following the terror attacks.

Some 12,000 police officers, backed by SWAT teams and volunteer civilian groups, were deployed across graveyards.

"K9 sniffer dogs have also been dispatched to airports, seaports and bus terminals (to prevent bomb attacks)," said Director Thompson Lantion, Philippine National Police community relations director.

In Zamboanga City, military checkpoints were set up around the city while policemen with automatic rifles patrolled graveyards and churches to thwart terrorist attacks.

The city's bomb squad was put on a 24-hour alert following a Sunday bomb attack there that left at least five people dead and more than 50 people injured. *AFP*

JETER HOMER WINS IT

Tino keys Yankee 10-inning triumph

NEW YORK—With New York down to its final out in Game 4 of the World Series Wednesday, Tino Martinez connected for a game-tying, two-run homer in the ninth inning off Arizona closer Byung-Hyun Kim to help the Yankees beat the Diamondbacks, 4-3, in 10 innings.

JETER

I have struggled in the postseason in the past and tried to press and make up for it. This time, I took it one at-bat at a time, Martinez said. To get a hit like that obviously is a boost for the team. Hopefully, it will get myself going and the rest of the offense.

Martinez had been hitless in nine at-bats in the Series against Arizona's tough pitching and the Yankees had scored only four runs before his big shot helped turned the momentum and tied the Series at two games apiece.

Tino had some good at-bats last night, but the ball was carrying better tonight, manager Joe Torre said. This is a big lift to win a game like this. We were on the threshold of being down 3-1. This was huge for our confidence.

New York didn't win it until Derek Jeter's solo shot in the 10th. Martinez was one of the first Yankees to pour out of the dugout to mob Jeter at home plate.

But the celebration wouldn't have been possible without Martinez, who made sure his career with the Yankees will last at least until a Game 6 in Arizona.

Martinez is in the final year of his contract and his future in New York is in doubt. The Yankees have been grooming top prospect Nick Johnson to take over at first base and also might be interested in signing reigning American League most valuable player Jason Giambi.

But Martinez is making their decision difficult, leading the team with 34 homers and 113 RBIs in the regular season.

I'm thinking about Game 5. That's my focus, Martinez said. I don't want to look ahead. I'm just enjoying the moment, trying to help us win a fifth championship and go from there.

Martinez has been a steady presence in the lineup since replacing fan favorite Don Mattingly after the 1995 season. Booed at first, Martinez quickly won over the fans and has been one of the key players in the Yankees' run of four World Series titles in five years. *AP*

Hoya wants Trinidad, Mosley and Hopkins

LOS ANGELES—Oscar De La Hoya would like to fight Felix Trinidad Jr., Shane Mosley and Bernard Hopkins over the next 15 months and then retire on his 30th birthday.

"In order to making boxing history and to be respected in the boxing world, you have to take on the legit champions," the WBC super welterweight champion said Wednesday.

"The legit champion right now is Hopkins. He's making all the noise, not taking anything from Mosley."

De La Hoya made the comments at news conference to promote his Dec. 8 title defense against Roman Karmazin at the Olympic Auditorium.

Hopkins stopped Trinidad in the 12th round of their middleweight title unification bout Sept. 29. Mosley, the 147-pound (66.678-kilogram) WBC welterweight champion, scored a split-decision victory over De La Hoya on June 17, 2000.

"If he wants to move up to 154 (69.853 kilograms), it's not going to be the same thing that night when I fought him," said De La Hoya, who turns 30 on Feb. 4, 2003. "It's going to be a whole different story." *AP*

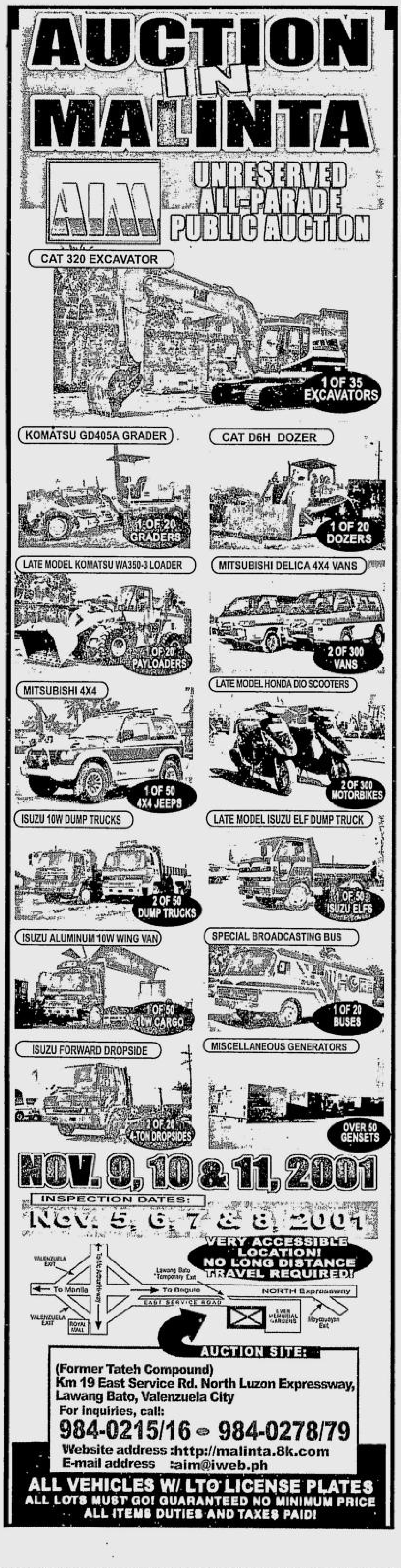
Rodriguez, Bonds cop Aaron award

NEW YORK—Texas shortstop Alex Rodriguez and San Francisco outfielder Barry Bonds won the Hank Aaron award Wednesday, with broadcasters voting them the best hitters in their leagues this season.

Rodriguez had an American League-leading 52 homers, was third in runs batted in with 135 and seventh in batting average at .318.

Bonds set a major league records with 73 homers, three more than the mark established by Mark McGwire in 1998, 177 walks and an .863 slugging percentage. He was tied for seventh with a .328 batting average and was fourth with 137 RBIs.

The Hank Aaron award was introduced by the commissioner's office in 1999. *AP*



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MITSUBISHI DELICA 4X4 VANS — 2 OF 300 VANS
MITSUBISHI 4X4 — 1 OF 50 4X4 JEEPS
LATE MODEL HONDA DIO SCOOTERS — 2 OF 300 MOTORBIKES
ISUZU 10W DUMP TRUCKS — 2 OF 50 DUMP TRUCKS
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Fil-Am Matias reaches semis

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DIANE Matias, a Filipina who migrated to the United States in 1991, scored a rousing 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 victory over Thailand's Prariyawan Ratanakrong yesterday to move into the semifinals of the Union Cement-ITF women's tennis circuit at the Rizal Memorial tennis center.

Though she's entered as an American, her victory was welcome news to tennis fans following the early exits of Filipino bets led by RP's No. 1 Czarina Mae Arevalo in this 10-nation tournament.

She will face Chinese Taipei's Weng Tzu-Ting, who crushed fourth-seeded Sonal Phadke of India, 6-3, 6-1, in the semis at 9 a.m. today.

The 16-year-old Matias has drawn the attention of Philippine Tennis Association president Buddy Andrada, who said he was inviting the 5-foot-3 player to join the national team.

Matias, who lost her doubles match alongside Arevalo against their Korean foes (6-3, 6-3), is the eldest of three kids and is now at 11th grade at the Futures High in Los Angeles, California. She was the Easter Bowl national age-group champion last year in LA.

"I hope to play tomorrow the same way I did today," said Matias of her match against Weng, the 1998 Asian Games gold medalist in Bangkok.

The winner will take on the victor in the other semis match between Taipei's Chuang Chia-Jung and Hong Kong's Lam Po-Kuen.

Chuang, a wild card who is ranked 953rd in the world, ended the lucky streak of Malaysia's Khoo Chin-Bee, 7-5, 6-3. Khoo upset top seed Kim Jin-Hee of Korea before booting out Arevalo in the second round.

Lam, who scored a 6-3, 6-3 win over third-seeded Shruti Dhawan of India in the first round, defeated Kim So-Jung, 6-2, 6-1.

The singles champion will win $1,600 plus five Women's Tennis Association points, while the doubles winners get $650 and five WTA points each.

MATIAS lunges for a serve during her match against Ratanakrong yesterday. She won, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2, to make the semifinals of the Union Cement-ITF women's tennis circuit at the Rizal Memorial tennis complex.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

8 jr players get PCA slots

EIGHT of the country's promising juniors were given slots in the main draw of the P400,000 Philippine Columbian Association Tennis Championships slated Nov. 10-18 at the PCA indoor courts in Plaza Dilao, Paco, Manila.

Players may register with Bobby Mangunay and Jeng Antaran at the PCA office (tels. 563-8501 and 526-9278). Deadline of entry is on Nov. 4 at 12 noon. Entry fee is P300. There will be a three-day qualifying starting on Nov. 6.

Johan Guba, Ian de Guzman, Patrick John Tierro and Dino Ferrari, semifinalists in the PCA Juniors tournament, will join national players Johnny Arcilla, Michael Mora III and Joseph Victorino in the main draw of the men's division offering P100,000 to the singles champion.

Booking outright berths in the women's category were Ivy de Castro, Bien Zoleta, Catherine Flores and Kristel Samal.

"We want to give our juniors the opportunity to test their skills against seasoned players so we decided to include them in the main draw," said PCA Open organizing committee chairman Philip Ycasiano.

Ycasiano added that players from Brunei, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea have been invited to the Philta-sanctioned Group 2 event supported by Coca-Cola, Eastern Telecom, Wilson, Little Lawrence, PVL Restaurant and official ball Dunlop.

Final leg at Philam

PHILAM Homes Tennis Club will host the final leg of the Adidas Tennis Challenge 2001 Nov. 3-5.

Featured in the Adidas netfest organized by the Children's Tennis Workshop and supported by Milo and Sports Kids are the junior men's and women's 21-under, and the boys' and girls' 16-under, 14-under, 12-under and the unisex 10-under divisions.

The Adidas Tennis Challenge 2001 swings back to Manila after successfully conducting the nationwide age group tournaments in Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Baguio and Cebu.

Deadline of registration is today at 5 p.m. at the Philam Homes clubhouse, with the draw to follow immediately.

Xtour draws record field

THE RECENT Manila Xtour drew a record 429 participants for the Junior X and Main X categories in skateboarding, aggressive-inline skating, bicycle stunts (park) and bicycle stunts (flatlands).

Mark Steven Schultz won the gold in the bicycle stunts (park) category, which registered the highest number of entrants at 148 in the Main X division, with an average score of 86. Jorge Baquir placed second (84.75) and Lawrence Davila third. Luigi Alamazorg won the Junior X division of the same category.

The top three winners in the Manila Xtour will qualify for the Junior X Games III and Asian X Games Qualifier presented by Toyota. The event is scheduled in Kuala Lumpur in January.

Other sponsors are Polaroid, Milo and Ayala Center with ESPN International and ESPN Star Sports.

In the aggressive-inlike skating category (Main X), Rogelio Yangco took first with a 230.5 average score. Noel Coscedo settled for second with 229 points and Benjie Estanislao third (210.5).

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Action at 8:30 a.m. (r – 5:30 p.m.) on ESPN
NBA—Washington Wizards vs Atlanta Hawks at 9 a.m. (r–8:30 p.m.) on Star Sports
BASEBALL: MLB World Series, Arizona Diamondbacks vs NY Yankees, Game 5 at 9 a.m. on ESPN
GOLF: Inside the PGA Tour at 11:30 a.m. (r – 4:30 p.m.) on Star Sports
PGA—The Tour Championship, First Round at 10 p.m on Star Sports

Speedfest this weekend

THE COUNTRY'S first ever all-in-one motorsports event Speedfest 2001 is all set this weekend at the Subic Lemans Kart Track, Subic Freeport Zone. Organized by one of the very successful and popular racing teams in the country, MP Turbo race team, Speedfest promises to be the event to watch this long holiday weekend.

Held in cooperation with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority headed by Chair Felicito Payumo, Speedfest is sponsored by Zed Gulf Oil, BLTBCO, Gatorade, Daye Motorcycles, Timex Watches, Snapple, Rainforest Mineral Water, Gandour candies, DJ Mix Cigarettes, Universal Motors Corp., Mitsubishi Motors, GM Autoworld Makati, Francisco Motors Corp. and Subic Lemans.

Speedfest boasts of having kart clinics, kart races, autocross and timed bracket autocross, Mini 4WD races and special exhibitions. To be run in a 4-legs, Speedfest will have off-track races like Motocross 4x4 Offroad races, Mountain Biking and Car Dirt Trials in its Dec. 1-2 and 8-9 races. Scooter racing, RC racing, car displays and Skateboarders will also join future events. MP Turbo's own Zed-Gulf Oil Team drivers will give driving exhibitions wherein race fans can join in the car.

LGBA to stage 6 stag derby

SPECTACULAR cockfights will be held at the Mandaluyong Coliseum on Nov. 6 and Nov. 8 as more than 65 participants will test their pedigree bloodlines at the "Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) Inaugural 6-Stag Derby."

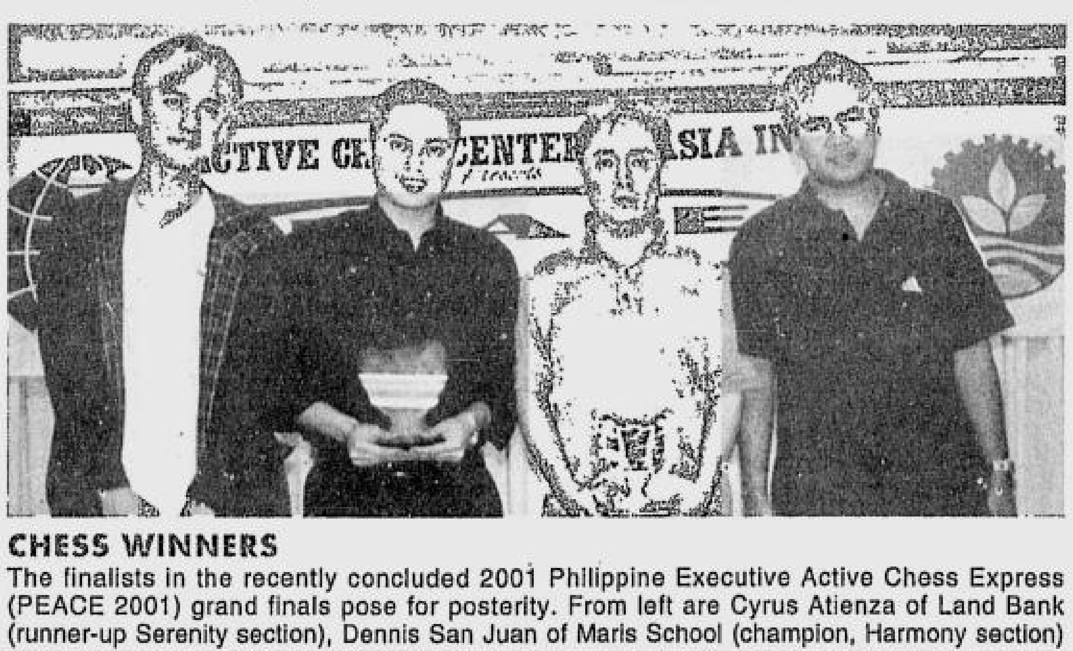
Spearheading the event are LGBA's top brass led by its president Rene "Boy" Diaz. The group's board of directors are hotelier-sportsman Biboy Enriquez, Boy Jiao, lawyer Eleno Mendoza, Jun Sevilla, Imelberto Hollero, Terence Madlambayan and Gil Nicolas (corporate secretary).

Winners of the Inaugural Derby will advance to the LGBA Semifinals 6-Stag Derby on Nov. 13 and Nov. 15. The championship round (6-stag) is set on Nov. 20 and Nov. 22, where LGBA Stagfighter of the Year will be chosen.

This prestigious event is sponsored by Washout Natural Insecticidal Shampoo, Wormal, Enertone (ready mix maintenance feeds) and the dynamic trio of Promotor '43, Respigen 15 and Voltplex.

OPMI president Vic Yu, operator of Mandaluyong Coliseum, will host a cocktail party on Nov. 5 (simultaneous with the submission of weights) to formally welcome the LGBA members.

For inquiries, please contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 535-2341 and 534-4110.



ACTIVE CH CENTER ASIA IN

CHESS WINNERS

The finalists in the recently concluded 2001 Philippine Executive Active Chess Express (PEACE 2001) grand finals pose for posterity. From left are Cyrus Atienza of Land Bank (runner-up Serenity section), Dennis San Juan of Maris School (champion, Harmony section) and Tyrone Guya of Nippon Life (runner-up Harmony section). PEACE 2001 was sponsored by DNS Company and organized by the Active Chess Center of Asia (Acca) in cooperation with Belgosa Media Systems, Land Bank, Tabilog Cargo Services, Travel Café, Topmost Engineering and the National Sports Grill.

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Davis scores 33 as Hornets win

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina —Baron Davis scored 21 of his career-high 33 points in the fourth quarter to lead the Charlotte Hornets to a 100-94 season-opening victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers. Davis, on the verge of becoming one of the premier players in the NBA, used a mix of reverse layups, strong drives to the basket and a pair of 3-pointers to rally the Hornets from a 15-point second-half deficit Wednesday. New Jersey beat Boston, 95-92. *AP*

TNT to test Gin import

STANDINGS	W	L
Sta. Lucia	8	3
Talk N Text	7	3
SMB	6	4
Shell	6	4
Pop Cola	6	5
Red Bull	5	6
Ginebra	4	7
Alaska	4	7
Purefoods	4	7
Tanduay	3	7

GAMES TODAY
(Astrodome)
5:05 p.m. – Tanduay vs SMB
7:10 p.m. – Talk N Text vs Ginebra

TALK N Text gets to enjoy the presence of comebacking import Brandon Williams when it takes on Barangay Ginebra even as Tanduay Gold aspires for the last slot in the quarterfinals against San Miguel Beer today in the PBA Governors Cup at the Astrodome.

The Phone Pals' coach Louie Alas said he expects Williams to deliver the goods in the 7:10 p.m. match where they will go for a share of the top spot with idle frontrunner Sta. Lucia Realty. Talk N Text has a 7-3 win-loss record.

"It is going to be a tremendous boost for us," said Alas of the import, who missed one game due to a torn ligament. "With a complete team, I hope we can sustain our good start this conference."

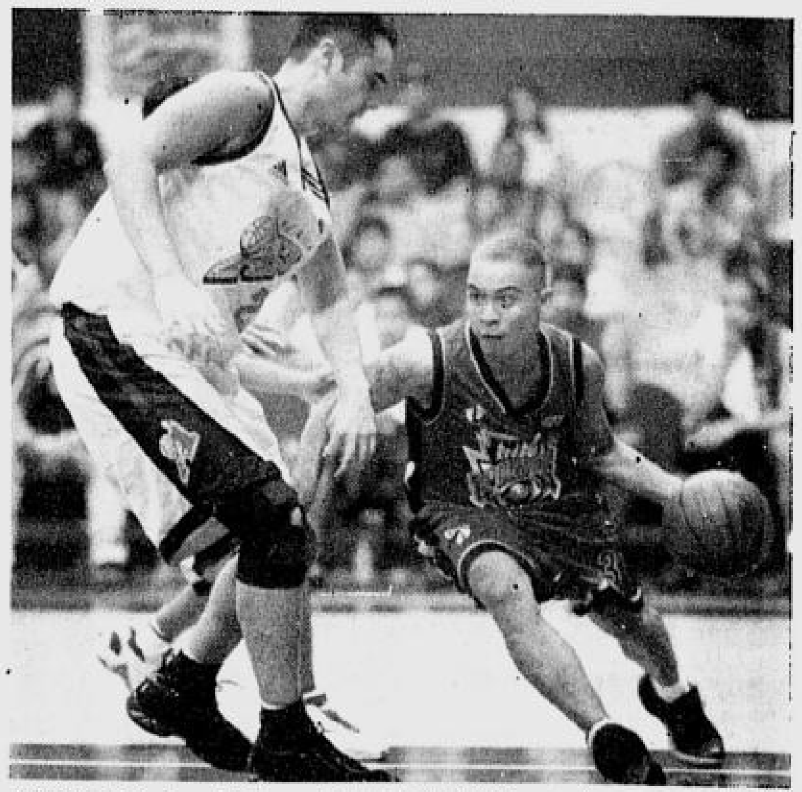
Ginebra will also have its import in Charles "Bubba" Wells, a former Dallas Maverick, who replaced injured Mark Jones.

The Gin Kings must beat the Phone Pals in order to gain breathing space before they face the Rhummasters in their last outing in the 13-game elimination.

Similarly, the Rhummasters badly need a victory against the Beermen to stay on course for the next round and keep abreast with fellow struggling teams like Alaska Milk and Purefoods. San Miguel won their first duel (85-79) on Oct. 14 in Antipolo City.

But it's going to be a different story for Tanduay this time, because Eric Menk will see action. The 6-foot-6 power forward missed their first game due to injury.

Marc Reyes



JIMWELL Torion of Batang Red Bull (right) tries to find his way around Alaska slotman James Wallkvist during their game Wednesday night. The Aces won; 98-91. ROMY HOMILLADA

PSC sees China deal boon to RP

PHILIPPINE sports stand to gain enormous benefits from a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with China signed by Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) chair Butch Tuason in the presence of President Macapagal and President Jiang Zemin of China in Beijing on Tuesday.

The training of athletes for the next Southeast Asian Games and next year's Asian Games as well as technical assistance for the venues that will be used in the country's hosting of the 2005 SEA Games loomed as the main areas to be given a big boost by the MOU.

According to Tuason, who was part of the presidential entourage in GMA's just concluded two-day state visit to China, he will make sure that the opportunities offered by China are maximized.

"It's a super deal for us, so to speak since the range of opportunities is very, very wide," Tuason said, citing China's hosting of the 2008 Olympics as a big plus.

The buildup for the Olympics should start as early as this year for China and the Philippines must be on guard for possible tieups not just in athletes' training but construction and infrastructure as well.

China is expected to put a special focus on infrastructure with the many stadiums it will have to build for the Olympics and as part of the agreement the Philippines can seek technical support from when the need arises for the 2005 SEA Games.

The enthusiasm displayed by GMA on sports, Tuason said, was crucial in convincing the Chinese community that her government is serious in giving sports the proper attention.

"She congratulated China for winning the bidding for the 2008 Olympics and she was able to impress upon the Chinese that her administration is after a sound sports program and youth development," Tuason said.

"President Arroyo's guidance and support, to which the PSC is very grateful, have given us all the strength to continue searching for ways on how to uplift the status of Philippine sports. Despite the many problems, I still believe that sooner or later we will be able to climb up the rankings in the region again," he said.

Also, Tuason vowed that the new partnership forged with the Sports Ministry of China will not only benefit the so called elite athletes but the overall grassroots program of the PSC which remains a priority.

"I will definitely push for the benefits to be shared by as many athletes as possible," he said. He also did not discount the possibility of recruiting Chinese coaches to further improve the skills of athletes in sports like gymnastics, diving, wushu, swimming and track and field, among others.

Ex-swim queen waits and worries

ONCE dubbed as "Asian Swim Queen" for being the most dominant female swimmer in the region in the mid-1950s until the early 1960s, Haydee Coloso Espino is appealing to President Macapagal-Arroyo, the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. and the Philippine Sports Commission to release, at least before Christmas, the cash incentives for the athletes under the provisions of Republic Act 9064 also called the "Sports Benefits and Incentives Act of 2001."

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

President Macapagal approved RA 9064 last April 5, 2001.

Now in her 60s, Espino said, "The SEA Games medalists are very lucky because they received their incentives outright while we have been waiting for almost half a century to receive our rewards. The long wait is very agonizing to aging and sickly athletes like us.

Do we have to wait for another half a century?"

The most bemedalled woman swimmer in Philippine sports history, Espino won a total of 10 medals in the Asian Games: three golds, five silvers and two bronzes in the Asiad of 1954 in Manila, 1958 in Tokyo and 1962 in Jakarta.

"Pagcor, I guess is yet to finalize the implementing guidelines," she said. "For how long, I don't know."

Writing from Mandurriao, Iloilo City, Espino had earlier taken umbrage at RA 9064, citing in particular the provision of Section 9 which states that past achievers in international meets like her are only entitled to 50 percent of the cash incentives allotted to medal winners of the Olympics and Asian Games. (Note: National athletes who win gold, silver and bronze medals in the Olympics are entitled to cash rewards of P5 million, P2.5M and P1M, respectively, while Asiad medal winners will receive P1M, P500,000 and P100,000.—MRI).

"Isn't it ironic," she asked, "that after spending time, efforts and sacrificing a lot we will only be rewarded with 50 percent of what is rightly due us?"

Then the most popular and widely admired athlete of Far Eastern University, Espino stressed that "we also proudly carried the Philippine flag and sang with fervor the national anthem during the medal ceremonies. "We certainly deserve a far better treatment."

During her time, she explained, they were not pampered unlike the present crop of national athletes who regularly receive allowances, food and vitamins and other amenities such as living quarters in their training.

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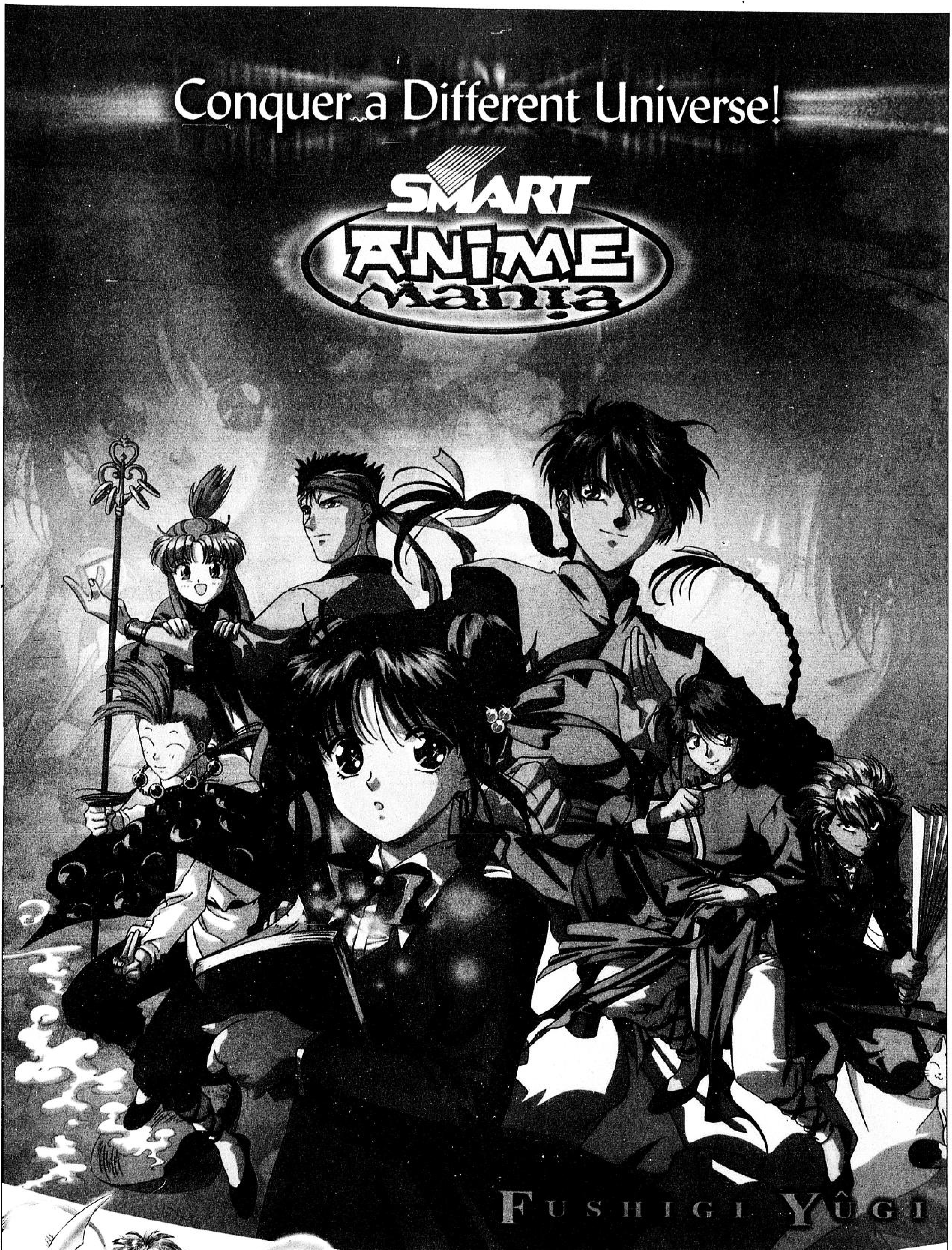

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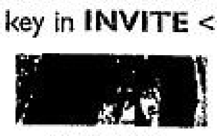

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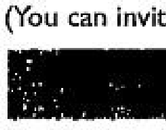

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

MOTOLITE
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FREE
BATTERY AND TIRE CHECK
Oct. 1 to Nov. 4

₱300,000 for mayor's life

By Nelson F. Flores

ANTIPOLO CITY—The two suspects in last Monday's killing of Mayor Bernardo Sarayot of Mabitac, Laguna in Teresa, Rizal admitted during interrogation that they were paid P300,000 to do the job, said Supt. Arturo Tolentino, director of the Rizal Provincial Police Office.

Tolentino yesterday said multiple murder charges were filed against suspects Donato Bulasog and Edwin Librea before the Rizal Provincial Prosecutor's Office.

Sarayot was on board a white van driven by Gabriel Fuentes on their way to Manila when armed men fired at them in Teresa town, killing the mayor and the driver.

SPO2 Eduardo Sena, a Teresa traffic policeman, was also killed when he tried to come to the victims' rescue.

Tolentino told the INQUIRER that Bulasog and Librea also said during interrogation that they belonged to a group hired to kill Sarayot.

But Tolentino declined to identify who hired the gunmen. He explained that despite the admission of the suspects, police were still looking into other angles in the killing.

Tolentino said police were also investigating the alleged involvement of a former barangay captain and of two former Mabitac officials.

Police sources said the former barangay captain blamed Sarayot for the death of his son.

Sarayot was also said to have filed trumped-up charges against the former mayors.

"We have a number of motives and suspects and we know how the mayor was killed and it will not be long before we unravel what really happened," Tolentino said.

He said police were also looking into the possible role of the New People's Army liquidation squad in Sarayot's murder.

The NPA's Melito Glor Command has denied killing Sarayot. But the same group had admitted in a statement read over radio station dzBB that it was investigating the mayor for his alleged involvement in illegal drugs.

The Melito Glor statement said the group had not yet decided what

P300,000 FOR/ A18

DEADLY weapons and liquor seized in North Cemetery. *Story on page A18.* ERIK ARAZAS

Japanese dies in 21-story fall in Makati

By Alcuin Papa

TWO foreign women, a Japanese and a Malaysian living within a few blocks of each other in Makati City, reportedly committed suicides yesterday. The Japanese died while the Malaysian lived, police said.

Police said they cannot rule out foul play in the death of Japanese Yoko Arimoto, 40, of Asia Tower on Paseo de Roxas Avenue in Legaspi Village.

Security guards at the Asian Institute of Management, also on Paseo de Roxas, were startled yesterday morning when they heard a loud thud. When they went out to investigate, they found Arimoto's body which landed just outside the

JAPANESE DIES/ A18

UNFORGOTTEN
Marites Paleno lights candles at the spot in Payatas, Quezon City where her mother, one sister and four nephews died in the July 2000 landslide in the dumpsite. JOAN BONDOC

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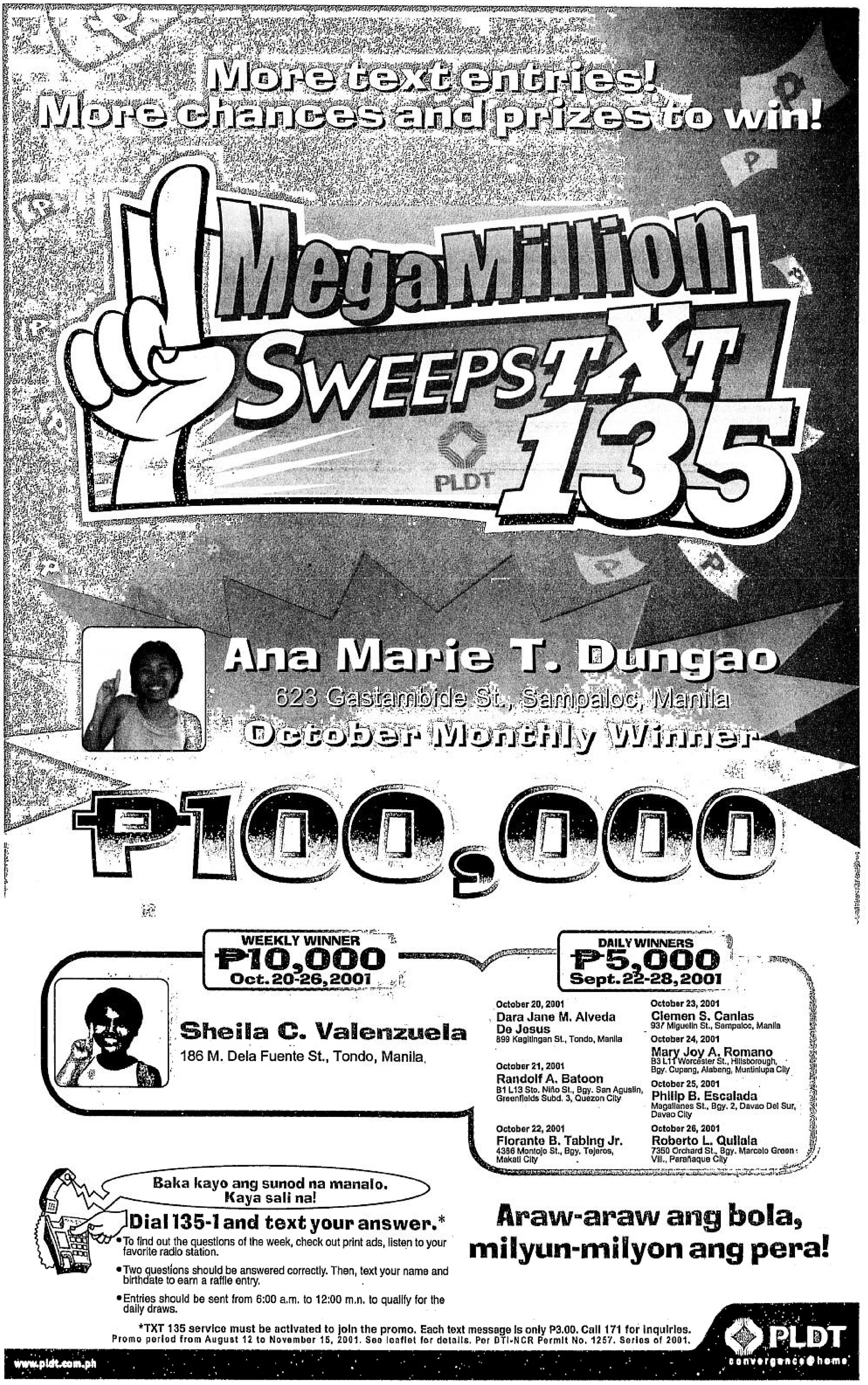

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October 22, 2001
Florante B. Tabing Jr.
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This is a replay: Third-class trip to a happy ending

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

(Several friends I had talked to said they missed this piece which came out in the Sunday Inquirer Magazine the other week. So, again, pardon me as I take a pause, serve a reprint, light a candle and offer prayers for all our dear departed.)

THE LAST time we celebrated a native warrior in the Olympics, it was through a boxer who captured what our well-traveled sports officials would boldly call a "near gold."

What Onyok Velasco won in the Atlanta Olympics was only the light-flyweight boxing silver medal but he was accorded a grand hero's welcome. He also received all sorts of rich rewards and incentives.

Well, it was easy to brand that feat by Onyok, whom we would reluctantly lose to the entertainment world, half-baked.

Onyok failed to land the gold medal, period.

But Philippine sports was in dire need of heroes so we celebrated the tiny gladiator, with that near-miss of his, as though he had bagged the real thing.

Meanwhile, the desperate quest for the Philippines' first Olympic gold continues.

Last seen, the gold-medal hunters were headed in the wrong direction. In fact, the Philippine contingent returned empty-handed from its campaign in last year's Sydney Olympics. No silver and, mind you, not even a dull glint of the lowly bronze.

In a previous major international campaign, specifically the 1998 Asian Games in Bangkok, the Philippines failed miserably in its wild chase for big honors. Fortunately, a couple of thin and pale billiard players salvaged the country's lone gold medal before the Asiad could close.

You see, the Olympics and the Asiad are the certified testing grounds of a people's lineage, stock and upbringing; so we could only imagine with a shudder what the belated triumph of those sickly pool parlor boys had projected.

***

Anyway, those sorry sorties in the previous Asiad and Olympics, both major outings, clearly confirmed that, although the Philippines competes in major international events, these competitions also serve as a tired diagnosis of national sporting ills.

Problem is, the same old afflictions kept resurfacing year after year, and no cure has appeared in sight.

But, hey, because sports, just like Hollywood, needs heroes, the Philippines has also been competing in the Southeast Asian Games since 1977.

Strictly speaking, the SEA Games cannot be ranked with the Olympics or the Asian Games.

At best, the SEA Games pales as third-rate compared to the two major international meets.

But we have been competing in the SEA Games because Philippine sports cannot hope to thrive and redevelop if hometown fans are left to grieve and welcome failed native athletes upon their return from major international events like the Olympics.

Yes, compared to the rocky trips to the Olympics and the Asiad, going to the SEA Games is like going to a party for the Philippine contingent. There are medals galore in this biennial meet among neighboring Southeast Asian nations.

The quality of competitions in the SEA Games has made sure that even deteriorated Filipino athletes partake of the feast.

Of course, despite the lowly competition, it has not always been smooth sailing for the RP contingent in the SEA Games. In fact, RP participation hit a record low when it slid miserably to fifth overall in the Brunei Games of 1999.

For the record, the Philippines did not do any better when it competed in the 21st edition of the SEA Games hosted by Malaysia last month. Other than failing to garner the projected 40-gold medals, RP was overtaken by Vietnam and was left still languishing at fifth over-all, not too distant from the likes of Laos, Cambodia and Brunei.

***

Philippine sports, as in previous check-ups, has been found to be very sick after the Kuala Lumpur campaign.

However, right or wrong, the poor performance, with the help of a media blitz, has been pumped and propped up to appear like one big success.

Rich money incentives, most of them courtesy of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, have greatly helped change the picture of the failed Filipino athlete.

This native try at grand delusion has never been done before but only time and future results could tell if the ploy would reap dividends.

It's also inevitable that we plain sports fans become party to this new game in town.

Yes, we could only agree that there should be a time for winning and a time for losing, a season to rejoice, a time to grieve.

But, in a queasy way, this thing about the Southeast Asian Games, where Filipinos are finally allowed to partake of the gold-medal fiesta, is not unlike the old movie house setups of old.

Back in the '50s, fresh blockbusters from Hollywood were simply too expensive. The new films, shown in first-class movie palaces in the big city, were beyond the reach of poor barrio lads.

Simply told, we had no choice but wait for months, even a full year, before these great films were finally shown in steamy, bug-infested third-class movie houses—Mactan, Moderno, Rio, Bellevue, Riverside—at the city outskirts.

By the time these terrific movies—their stories told and retold by rich, luckier kids in the neighborhood—became available to us, they were already older than history.

Still we would delude ourselves that everything was just exciting and brand-new. We would also enter the world of make-believe.

Yes, those third-class movie thrills, just like the third-class medals available in the SEA Games, should now be no less exciting to our athletes and our creative sports officials.

The poor Pinoy also deserves a happy ending.

Weapons seized in North

By Philip C. Tubeza and Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

DESPITE the lingering threat of terrorism, tens of thousands of people flocked to Metro Manila burial grounds to visit their dead yesterday, All Saints' Day.

Some people felt a bit of terror when teenagers figured in a rumble yesterday morning and police seized many deadly weapons of bottles of liquor in the North Cemetery, but the day was generally peaceful and even festive, said Supt. Danilo Abarzosa, chief of the Western Police District Station 3.

Around 3 p.m., the WPD estimated the crowd in the North Cemetery at 70,000; South Cemetery, 12,000; La Loma, 6,000; and Chinese Cemetery, 3,000.

"The large number of visitors in the North Cemetery is explainable because it is about 54 hectares," Abarzosa said.

Also in the North Cemetery, police said they seized shabu paraphernalia, 536 "sharp objects," 41 knives, 91 playing cards, and 17 assorted bottles of liquor, including a bottle of Johnny Walker Black Label.

Police confiscated 35 deadly weapons at the La Loma cemetery.

"The owners said they were going to use the knives to clean the graves of their loved ones," Abarsoza said. "But we told them some hot-head might grab the knives and use them in a fight."

He said the owners were given receipts for their knives which would be returned to them when they left the cemetery.

Vendors complained that the price of flowers they bought on Dimasalang Street in Sampaloc, Manila had more than doubled. "A dozen flowers cost P40 to P50 last year but this year we bought them for P100," said vendor Susan Garcia; 38.

Double amputee Reynaldo Narvasa, 37, sold P10 candles from his wheelchair. Narvasa said that of the 240 candles he intended to sell, only 70 remained as of 11 a.m. Four other amputees on wheelchairs also sold candles in the North Cemetery.

Members of the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) set up a booth outside the North Cemetery to gather signatures for their petition for a wage increase of P125. As of 10 a.m., the KMU booth had collected 300 signatures.

Until early yesterday afternoon, long queues were still observed at provincial bus terminals in Quezon City.

"We have more passengers this year than in the past years, probably because the vacation is longer this year," said Victory Liner dispatcher Rudy Cabalu.

Orly Lanuza of the Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC) communication center said "more people could be travelling to the provinces because of the long weekend."

But Ed Manalac, station master of Tritran Bus Co. in Kamuning, said that Tritran had less passengers this year. Tritran buses in the Kamuning station travel to Lucena.

"Sometimes, we had to use the units of our sister company," he said. "This year, our 250 buses are not even filled to sitting capacity.

"Life is harder now," he added. "Minimum wage earners hardly have enough for even their daily needs, much less for going on vacation."

P300,000 for . . .

(From page A17)

to do with Sarayot. It also pointed out that communists would not wear bonnets and waste ammunition in killing their subjects like Sarayot's killers did.

Antipolo City police led by Chief Insp. Delia Quidato arrested Bulasog and Librea inside the Fortune Republic Cement compound, also in Teresa town, after a brief chase.

Police said they found on the suspects a rifle and an M-79 grenade launcher.

Teresa's deputy police chief, Senior Insp. Patricia Pantaleon, said two other suspects in Sarayot's killing have eluded arrest.

She said the two disappeared in a mountainous area near the town proper.

"Every nook and cranny of this mountainous area is being thoroughly checked," Pantaleon said.

Japanese dies . . .

(From page A17)

AIM guard house.

According to Insp. Romeo Ramos, chief of the Makati police homicide division, Arimoto appeared to have jumped from her condominium unit on the 21st floor about 8:30 a.m.

There was a cut on Arimoto's left leg and her striped T-shirt was torn, which led investigators to suspect that she could have been killed.

Thirty minutes later, Malaysian Juliana Hesan, 42, also of Legaspi Village, tried to jump off her friend's condominium unit but landed on the building's canopy just one floor below.

Police said Hesan had gone to the condo unit of her friend Joselyn Sanders on the fifth floor of Frabella Condominium on Rada Street to talk about her problems.

But when Sanders' back was turned, Hesan jumped out of the window. She landed on a fourth floor canopy, police said.

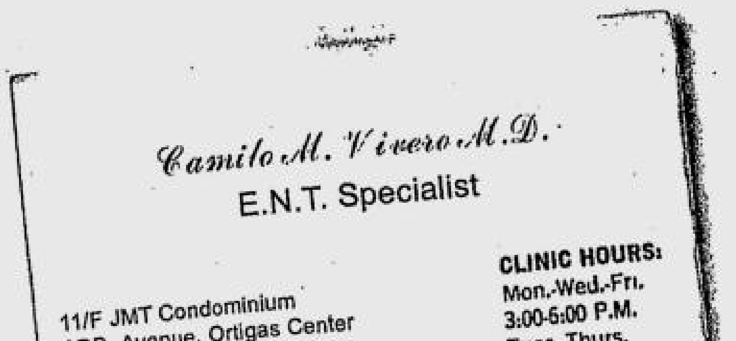
Hesan, who suffered bruises and abrasions, is now under observation at the Makati Medical Center.

Cory to speak at St. Scho

FORMER President Cory Aquino will speak at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 4, at St. Scholastica's College on Leon Guinto Street in Malate, the Carmelite Monastery of St. Therese announced.

Ms Aquino's lecture caps the Carmelites' university lecture series which started last year in observance of the 75th year of the Carmelites' foundation in the country. November is the diamond jubilee month of the Carmelite monastery.

The public is invited to Ms Aquino's lecture.



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Denzel Washington plays it bad and nasty

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MOVIEGOERS who have gotten used to seeing **Denzel Washington** playing good guys on the big screen will get a big surprise when they see him in his current film, "Training Day," where he plays a bad cop and first-class heel.

Interestingly, Washington is able to pull off the sudden shift with cruddy conviction. As the movie's plot tells it, he spends only one day breaking in a rookie (**Ethan Hawke**) who wants to join his anti-drug team, but that's all he needs to make a hell out of the young cop's life.

As they drive from one place to another, Washington slowly breaks down Hawke's principles until he has the rookie smoking hash, beating up would-be rapists and generally behaving like a junior version of Washington himself.

Washington's logic is that only wolves can fight the wolves in the drug trade. Principled cops don't last very long in the urban jungle, so police officers have to think as craftily and act as cruelly as criminals, or die.

Hawke eventually agrees with most of Washington's points, but he draws the line at killing the defenseless man whom Washington wants disposed of after he's discovered his cache of drug money, and appropriated it for himself and the members of his team.

Nothing Washington says can convince the young cop that this killing is justified, and Washington realizes that he's made a foe of the rookie cop. He gets some thugs to deal with the "problem," but Hawke turns the tables on him when he gets the gangleader on his side by proving the veracity of his claim that he had saved the gangleader's cousin from being raped.

Thus does "Training Day" shape up as a battle between two kinds of policemen, and it's fascinating to see the two combatants using all of their wits and street savvy to end up alive at film's end.

The movie has a slow start, and at first, nothing much appears to be happening. The action is also pretty much confined to Washington's car as it tools around the city's underbelly.

Little by little, however, we sense that the movie is "planting" details that will come to full pertinence later in the film, as in the case of the rape attempt that Hawke field, which turned out to be a lifesaver for him later in the story.

This careful accretion of details comes off as a net of premeditated evil that has been prepared for the "innocent" rookie cop, to get him to agree to shoot the man whom Washington wants disposed of later in the movie.

It's too bad that the film later wastes its advantage with a far-out motivation for Washington's evil actions. But the flaw doesn't severely compromise the movie, and its reason for being seen.

Washington's performance here is impressively different from his usual, upbeat and true-blue screen portrayals. But he blunts its power with a flairing, ululating villain turn toward film's end.

Hawke's performance is more controlled and focused, and he soon has viewers worrying that he can't overcome Washington's network of menace and evil all by his lonesome. But inherent goodness is still on the side of the angels, so justice triumphs in the end.

Feedback

From **Rey Horbino**: "I'm an avid reader of your column. Thanks for the great hindsight's, insights and foresights about every aspect and event in the film industry, both here and abroad.

"If you please, can you do a write-up about the great Hollywood actor, **Glenn Ford**? He has so many successful films and his career spanned many decades.

"He has a website dedicated to him—http: \\www.glennford online.com and his fans club is currently petitioning that he be given an Oscar Lifetime Achievement Award . . ."

'Millionaire' host unruffled despite onslaught of game shows

DE LEON. Still a lot of room for improvement

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

A YEAR after he accepted the job as game show host of Viva Television's "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire," actor **Christopher de Leon** admits there's still a lot of room for improvement in what he does on TV.

Although no longer a neophyte host, Boyet continues to provide the nail-biting excitement to viewers who are eager to find out if the contestant on the hot seat would win the grand prize of P2 million.

"Who Wants To Be a Millionaire" will celebrate its first anniversary on Nov. 13, with a special presentation featuring contestants who are all born on that date.

Boyet has just renewed his contract with Viva TV for another year. He tapes twice a week for the game show, so there's hardly any conflict if ever he has a film project.

Boyet cannot be any happier about the phenomenal success of the show, which altered the course of primetime TV viewing. Today, nearly all the networks launched their respective game shows in an effort to topple "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire."

"That's a little scary," Boyet notes. "But in a way, I'm also glad about what has been happening. It's a challenge for me. Now there's competition and it keeps me on my toes, unlike before when I was just relaxed because I was the only one.

"From the very start, we at Viva TV were really optimistic about the success of 'Who Wants To Be...' because it's also very popular in other countries. But we did not expect it to shake the TV industry."

"Millionaire" gets an average of 40,000 phone calls a day from viewers who want to get a crack at winning a million bucks. The show airs on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays on IBC 13.

Boyet discloses he was initially reluctant to accept Viva's offer to host "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire," after being an actor more than half of his life. The hosting job marked a major change in the pace of the career of this multi-awarded talent, who won a Famas best actor trophy for his first film, **Lino Brocka**'s "Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang."

"But on second thought, I told myself it was about time I try something new," Boyet says. "I got my share of bad reviews, but this has been a very exciting experience for me. I'm glad to have been part of a very successful show."

When Viva TV launched another game show, "The Weakest Link," hosted by **Edu Manzano**, Boyet was immediately subjected to comparisons with Edu. Yet, Boyet refuses to consider Edu as a rival.

"Edu is a very good host," Boyet allows. "I still consider myself a beginner when it comes to TV hosting, but I'm learning the ropes. I'm trying to make the game show more snappy, especially now with the competition.

"I don't want to compete with Edu. In fact, 'The Weakest Link' even complements 'Millionaire' because it's a sister-program and it comes after my show. We have the same producers."

The success of "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire" also reinforced Boyet's popularity. Today, he is recognized even by kids everywhere he goes.

"They no longer call me Christopher, but 'Who Wants To Be . . .'," he says. "The smiles I get now all over the country are different from the smiles I used to get when I was seen as an actor. What's nice about it is that I know a lot of people enjoy the show. When I make people smile, laugh or get involved, I'm happy."

Good breaks

THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD **Glaiza de Castro**, who played the love interest of **Danilo Barrios** in the youth-oriented flick, "Cool Dudes," has been getting the good breaks in her career this early.

After making her big screen debut, Glaiza gets to fulfill another dream of recording an album. She recently released her solo musical outing under Xax (pronounced eg-za) Music Entertainment, a Japanese-Filipino owned company established only early this year.

Glaiza was only nine when she first joined a stage play which earned for her a best actress award. She appeared in Jollibee and Zest TV commercials and has been a regular artist of **German Moreno**'s "Master Showman" on GMA 7, since January.

Glaiza considers singing as her first love. So when she was offered a recording contract by Xax Music, she did not pass it up.

The Venezuelan-born newcomer counts **Mariah Carey** and **Christina Aguilera** as her singing idols. Glaiza says that even if she becomes successful in the industry, she will still remain the old girl with her feet on the ground.

For her album promo, Glaiza continues her performance tour in various night haunts in Manila. She will visit D'East River Channel (Nov. 3 and 30), Padi's Point Manila and Tia Maria's Malate (Nov. 9), Tia Maria's Jupiter (Nov. 10) and Strumm's El Pueblo (Nov. 16).

With Glaiza as its first artist, Xax Music is out to make a difference in the entertainment industry. The company wants to be known for innovating various sounds and music by means of taking the challenge in creating dimensions and concepts that will change the look of the local recording industry.

Xax Music uses highly sophisticated equipment to mix and create first-rate product output. The outfit is backed up by a team of professionals who have a radical and non-traditional vision to turn around the local recording scene.

But Xax Music is not limiting its services to recording. It also offers casting, talent development and PR events management and band bookings.

DE CASTRO. Makes her recording debut

Tribe of Levi gears up for major musical outing

NEO Records' newest R&B artists Tribe of Levi gears up for a major musical outing as the group opens the act for the one-night concert of Michael Learns to Rock, Nov. 6 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Tribe of Levi is composed of lead vocalist Zaq Salazar, master rapper Robbie Rapsmith, guitar virtuoso Emerzon Texon, drummer Mark Anthony Ayangco, bass guitarist Ramil Servales, piano man Edward Mitra and wind instrumentalist Lauren C.

The band's repertoire and dynamic range have earned for them a contract with Viva's Neo Records and maximum exposure as Company B exclusive image models.

Tribe of Levi's recently launched first single, "Around You," is now enjoying favorable airplay, with its infectious dance beat.

This month, Tribe of Levi performs at Hard Rock Café in Glorietta Center Makati, Nov. 9 and 16, and Ratsky's in Malate on Nov. 3, 10 and 17.

From Nov. 22 to Dec. 1, Tribe of Levi will take centerstage at Ratsky's Cebu.

The band is managed by Roxanne Lapus' First Name Entertainment (tel. nos. 725-3347 and 725-3379).

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7	DON'T SAY A WORD
8	GHOST OF MARS
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12	TRAINING DAY

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7	13 DAYS

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2	CLOSED
3	LAST ERUPTION
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5	AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
6	PROFESSIONAL FIGHTERS
7	CLOSED
8	13 DAYS

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5	DOWN TO EARTH in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
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3	ROSARIO 18
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5	RESERVE
6	GHOST OF MARS

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2	SAKIM
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

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2 (DTS)	DOS EKIS
3 (DOLBY)	GHOST OF MARS
4	DON'T SAY A WORD

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2	DOS EKIS
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2	SAKIM
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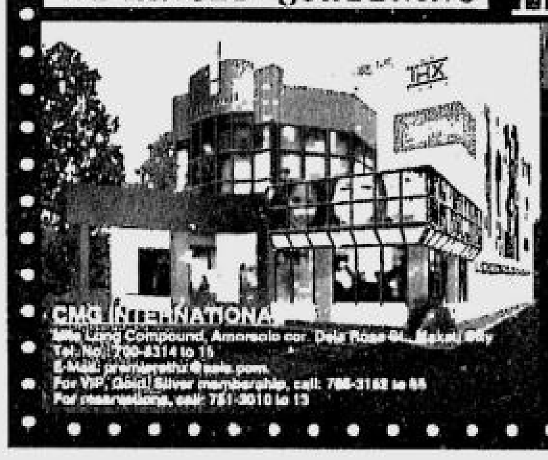

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Tel. No. 750-6314 to 15
E-Mail: premierethx@asia.com
For VIP, Gold, Silver membership, call: 750-3163 to 65
For reservations, call: 751-2010 to 13

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1 THX	DON'T SAY A WORD
2	DOWN TO EARTH
3	DON'T SAY A WORD
4	TRAINING DAY
5	GHOST OF MARS
6	SILENT JAY BOB STRIKE
7	LEGALLY BLONDE
8	DOS EKIS
9	LEGALLY BLONDE
10	AMERICAN PIE 2

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	GHOST OF MARS
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	TRAINING DAY
4	SILENT JAY BOB STRIKE
5	DOS EKIS
6	DOWN TO EARTH
7	DON'T SAY A WORD

NOVALICHES
935-3229 to 31

1	DON'T SAY A WORD
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	DOWN TO EARTH
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6	DOS EKIS
7	GHOST OF MARS
8	SILENT JAY BOB STRIKE

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2	DOS EKIS
3	SAKIM
4	DON'T SAY A WORD
5	DOWN TO EARTH
6	SILENT JAY BOB STRIKE

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1	OSMOSIS JONES
2	THE BODY
3	MANANABAS
4	THE HOLE
5	AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
6	13 DAYS

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- METRO EAST
- SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
- ILOILO

THX dts SDDS DOLBY DOLBY STEREO

SMART MONEY ACCEPTED AT ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD GALLERIA AND ERMITA.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MANANABAS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	13 DAYS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	AMERICAN PIE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEART
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	EXTREME FORCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	THE HOLE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	NAKED NIGHTS
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	MANANABAS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	IRA / CLIMAX
ODEON	DOS EKIS
ODEON-2	TRAINING DAY
ROBEN	HIYAS SA PARAISO
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	BROTHERHOOD / STOP
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HIYAS SA PARAISO
REMAR	DOS EKIS
REMAR-2	MANANABAS
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	SAKIM SA PAG IBIG
B	DOS EKIS
C	ROSARIO 18
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	DON'T SAY A WORD
CINEMA-2	LEGALLY BLONDE
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MARITAL RAPE
CINEMA-2	NAKED NIGHTS
CINEMA-3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	13 DAYS
CINEMA-6	SISID
CINEMA-7	LA VIDA ROSA
CINEMA-8	DOS EKIS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRAINING DAY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-12	THE BODY
CINEMA-14	MANANABAS
CINEMA-15	DOS EKIS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	JAY & SILENT BOB STRIKE BACK
CINEMA-2	DOWN TO EARTH
CINEMA-3	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-4	GHOST OF MARS
CINEMA-5	TRAINING DAY
CINEMA-6	DON'T SAY A WORD
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	AMORSEKO
CINEMA-2	TOTAL AIKIDO
CINEMA-4	DIBDIBAN ANG LABAN

New game show

THE BIGGEST game show to hit primetime TV, "Korek na Korek Ka D'yan!," premieres Monday, Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m. on GMA 7.

The show offers P2 million in cash prizes at stake everyday for a record-breaking six days a week. It airs Mondays to Fridays at 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 6:30 p.m.

A spin-off of the popular game portion on "Eat Bulaga," "Korek na Korek Ka D'yan" is guaranteed to be twice the fun and excitement with its first-of-its-kind day-and-night format. The show is hosted by the inimitable duo of Vic Sotto and Joey de Leon.

In addition, "Korek na Korek Ka D'yan" offers three ways to become instant millionaire. One can either win as a noontime or primetime contestant or as home partner. Hopefuls can have better chances of winning with easy-to-follow steps.

To join as noontime contestants on "Eat Bulaga," interested parties must write their name, address, telephone number, educational attainment, profession and signature on a piece of paper. Enclose it in an envelope and send to: Broadway Centrum, Doña Juana Rodriguez Ave., corner Aurora Blvd., Quezon City.

One hundred lucky senders will be drawn daily. They will be notified to take the preliminary tests. Ten will be chosen from among those who pass the test and get the chance to play on "Eat Bulaga." The survivor in the elimination rounds will face-off with the primetime winner for the P1-million jackpot round.

To play as primetime contestants, call 1-908-1234567. Callers just need to follow the voice instructions and answer the questions correctly. Ten will be chosen daily to play in the primetime game. The winner in the "Ano Yan?" elimination round will get the chance to compete against the noontime winner for the P1-million jackpot round.

To become home partners, send entries to Korek na Korek Ka D'yan Home Partner Promo, Broadway Centrum, Doña Juana Rodriguez Ave., corner Aurora Blvd., QC; or to GMA Network Center, Edsa corner Timog ave., Diliman, QC; or to all JRS branches nationwide. Dropped-in entries are also accepted.

Weekend bar tour

THE MILD Seven Bar Tour is unstoppable. After a brief break, the gorgeous models that comprise the Mild Seven Team is back on track and ready to go around Makati on Saturday, Nov. 3.

The gang is ready to play "Mild Seven Dares" with brave bar habitues of Cable Car Glorietta, Hard Rock Café, Tequila Joe's, Whistle Stop, Padi's Point Jupiter, Che Cigar, Cork and Windows Café Rockwell.

Mild Seven is also part of the Forumla One race, "Mild Seven Speed" show, which happens Nov. 10, 3 p.m.

The entire day will be full of games, races and live music at the Eastwood City Walk in Libis, Quezon City, with the R&B sound of First Circle.

ENTERTAINMENT
LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Some new discoveries

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

1) ROBINSON'S Galleria's cinemas on the 2nd floor of their Movieworld are nicer than the ones located on the 1st floor. They are stadium-seating style and the way the seats are laid out offers a clearer, more comfortable, unobstructed vantage point. So if you intend to watch a movie in Galleria hopefully the movie of your choice is being shown on the upper floor theaters.

2) **Sharon Cuneta**'s new album under BMG Records, "All I Ever Want." After guesting on my former program "Kris and Tell," Shawie had promised to send me an advance copy as soon as she received her supply.

I am currently obsessed with the album's sixth cut, "Are You That Someone," composed by **Sandy Fredrickson** and **Nina Ossoff**, produced by **Ryan Cayabyab** and arranged and programmed by **Lorie Ilustre**.

I have the unshakable habit of playing the same song over and over again in my car, at least a minimum of 10 repeats.

The refrain is as follows:

"Are you that someone that special someone

Sent down to love me outta all the somebodies

For worse or for better will you love me forever

Say that it's true my someone is you"

I'm an unabashed Sharonian, but even an impartial listener will be highly impressed by the beauty of her album's arrangements and the pleasing quality of her voice. The album has been launched, so try to get your copy now!

3) Glamour magazine, British edition. This magazine is sized smaller than the other fashion and beauty magazines, about as big as a typical hard-bound novel. It's easy to stuff into your bag, yet it's well laid out and brimming with great fashion, beauty, and celebrity features as well as women's issues articles.

The magazine is also cheaper than the other British and American magazines, it's less than P300. Excellent value for money! I'm now a die-hard **Reese Witherspoon** fan and there's an excellent interview of her in this month's edition.

4) Olay Daily Facials cleansing cloths. As my Buzz executive producer would say, "Name the beauty product, and in the name of science, Kris is compelled to try it." This product isn't distributed locally yet, but you can get it at any PX store. It's great because the washcloth lathers when wet and it gets rid of all your makeup and acts like a cleansing bar and exfoliator as well.

This product cuts cleansing time in half. The face feels great. It's especially good to bring to the office in case you have a date after work and you want to have a fresh face, or if you're heading to the gym and want to get rid of your makeup before a workout.

5) Lastly and most significant of all, when my "Buzz" co-host **Boy Abunda** celebrated his birthday, I think that it was a definite first on Philippine TV that a "domestic partner" of a showbiz personality came live on air to give his birthday greeting, it drove home an important message to me about what makes a relationship work. **Bong**, Boy's significant other for the past 19 years, has been loving and caring not only of Boy, but also of Boy's beloved *nanay*.

The relationship has lasted because each of the partners have been supportive, forgiving, and accepting. Bong has never imposed on Boy to change, rather he has allowed and encouraged Boy to soar.

In turn I've seen how nurturing Boy has been toward Bong and how much respect he accords him. Anybody, myself included, who has wondered what makes a relationship survive and thrive can learn so much from them.

Michael Learns to Rock returns to Manila

MICHAEL Learns to Rock, one of the most successful bands to emerge out of Denmark, will be back for a special, one-night only performance, Nov. 6, 8:30 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum.

Billed as "Michael Learns to Rock Hits Tour," the concert will also feature fast-rising local band from Viva Records, Tribe of Levi, as front act.

Composed of vocalist and keyboard player Jascha Richter, guitarist and keyboardist Mikkel Lentz and drummer-percussionist Kare Wanscher, Michael Learns to Rock was formed in 1989 in the college town of Arhus.

After some stints in the local clubs, they joined a talent contest and ended up not only with the grand prize, but also with a manager who went on to introduce the group to various record labels.

After another year, a recording contract came and Michael Learns to Rock released their eponymous debut album which became an instant hit.

The first single, "The Actor," took to the top of the hit charts of Denmark and subsequently also became a phenomenal seller in other countries in Europe and Asia, including the Philippines.

Michael Learns to Rock has since released five more albums—"Colours," "Played on Pepper," "Paint My Love," "Nothing to Lose" and their latest, "Blue Night."

The group has sold more than eight million units worldwide during the past 10 years. Among its popular songs are "The Actor," "25 Minutes," "Out of the Blue," "Sleeping Child," "That's Why You Go Away," "Someday," "Paint My Love," "Nothing to Lose," "Something You Should Know" and "Strange Foreign Beauty."

"Michael Learns to Rock Greatest Hits Tour" is a joint presentation of Viva Concerts, Uniprom, Inc. and Midas Promotions.

The show is sponsored by EMI Philippines, Inc. and Mossimo, with Aqua Sweet Purified Drinking Water.

Concert stations are yes-FM 101.1, dwRR 101.9, Magic 89.9 dwTM, 93.9 KC-FM and Home Radio 97 dot.

Tickets are available at all Ticketnet outlets and the Araneta Coliseum box office.

MICHAEL Learns to Rock. Phenomenal seller in Europe and Asia

NEW TIME SLOT

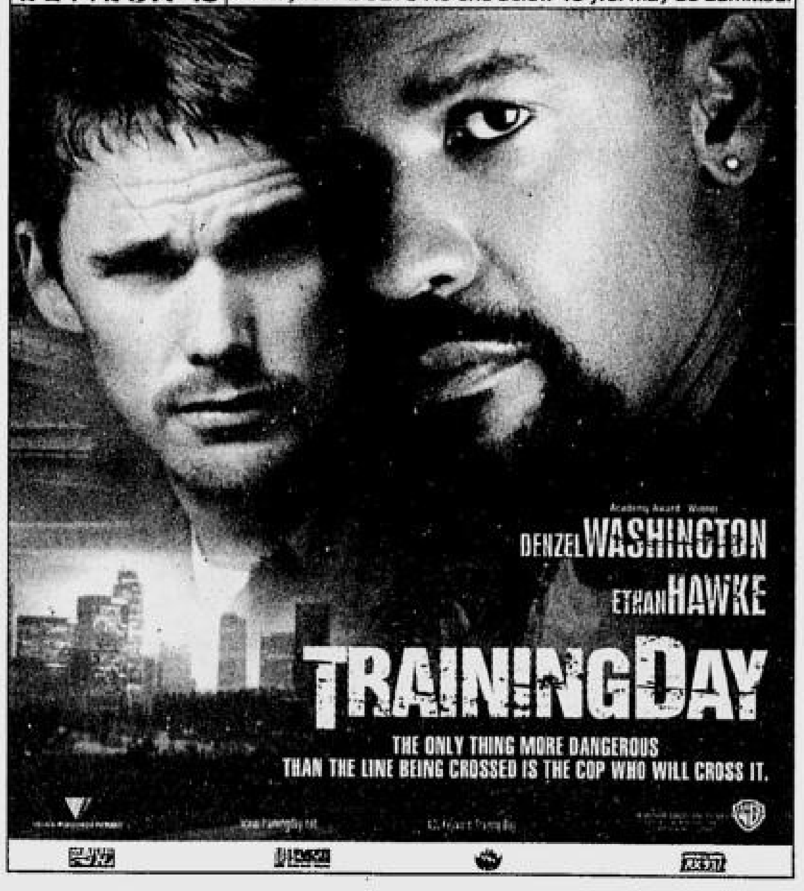
Starting November, the widely followed public service and public affairs program, "Kasangga Mo ang Langit," will air on its new time slot, 11:30 p.m. Mondays on RPN 9. The show is hosted by the father-and-son tandem of veteran broadcaster Rey Langit and his son Reyster. Now on its third year, "Kasangga Mo ang Langit" promises to give its audience more exposés and in-depth investigative reports to keep with its commitment to serve the public and champion the rights of the abused, victims of violence and the generally oppressed.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

1	2	3
JAY & SILENT BOB STRIKE BACK - R 18 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40	DOWN TO EARTH - P 13 11:45, 1:50, 3:55, 6:00, 8:05, 10:10	LEGALLY BLONDE - P 13 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10
GHOST OF MARS - R 18 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	TRAINING DAY - R 18 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	DON'T SAY A WORD - P 13 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:40

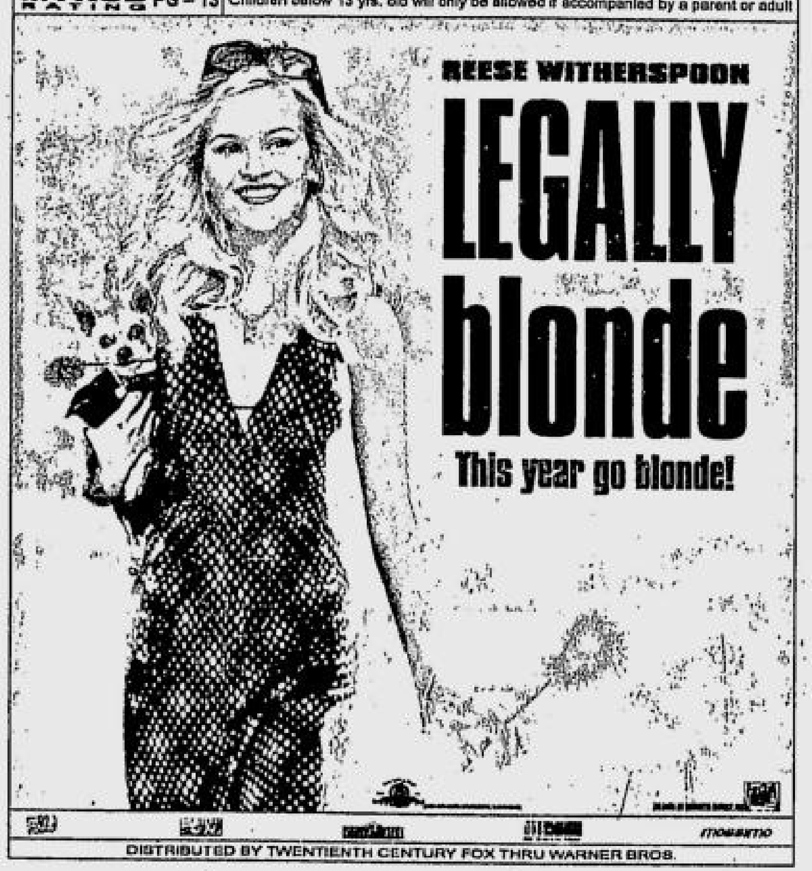
Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri., 11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

SECOND WEEK !
MTRCB RATING R-18 Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.



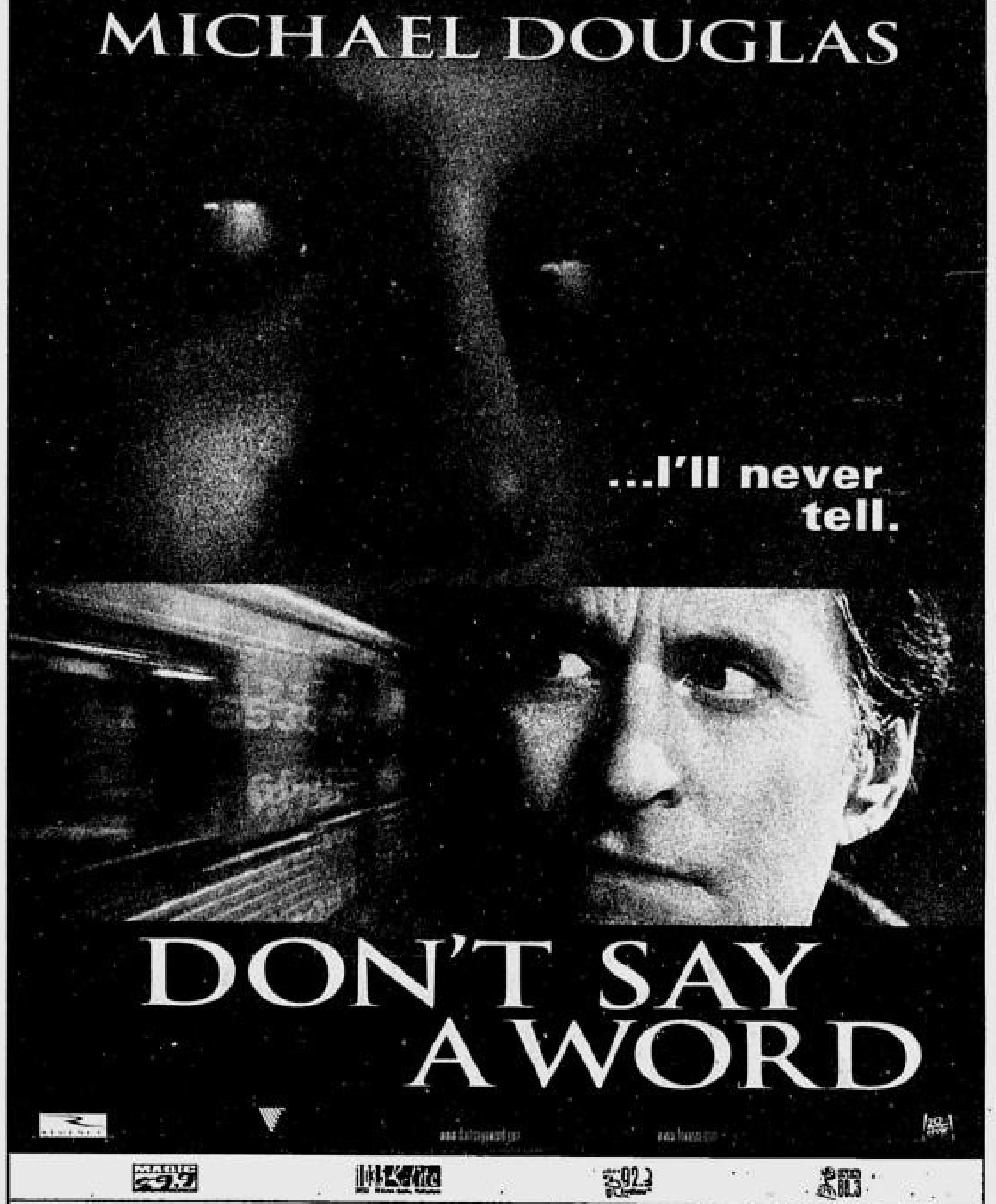
DENZEL WASHINGTON
ETHAN HAWKE
TRAINING DAY
THE ONLY THING MORE DANGEROUS THAN THE LINE BEING CROSSED IS THE COP WHO WILL CROSS IT.

SECOND WEEK !
MTRCB RATING PG - 13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult



DISTRIBUTED BY TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX THRU WARNER BROS.

MTRCB RATING PG - 13 Parents Strongly Cautioned in bringing children of tender age due to some violent scenes.
THE NO. 1 SUSPENSE THRILLER IN AMERICA !



DISTRIBUTED BY 20TH CENTURY FOX THRU WARNER BROS.
NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING R Restricted
Strictly for ADULTS
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

GHOSTS OF MARS

'Ghosts of Mars,' special effects-packed action-suspense thriller from John Carpenter

Mars, 2176 AD. Long inhabited by human settlers, the Red Planet has become the dangerous destiny of an over-populated Earth. 640,000 people now live and work at far-flung outposts all over Mars, mining the planet for its abundant natural resources.

But one of those mining operations has uncovered a deadly mother lode: a long-dormant Martian civilization whose terrifying warriors, now unleashed and unstoppable, are systematically taking over the bodies of human intruders, bent on ridding the planet of the invaders from Earth.

Master of Terror John Carpenter ("Escape from L.A.," "Halloween," "Vampires") presents a new, special effects-packed action-adventure sci-fi thriller starring the sexy Natasha Henstridge ("Species") as Lt. Melanie Ballard of the Mars Police Force. "Ghosts of Mars" is a Columbia Pictures release

NOW SHOWING

AYALA CINEMAS
ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4
NEXT ATTRACTION
Art Film
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

"Beautiful And Powerful!"
"Two Thumbs Up!"
BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE

PHILIPPINE PREMIERE

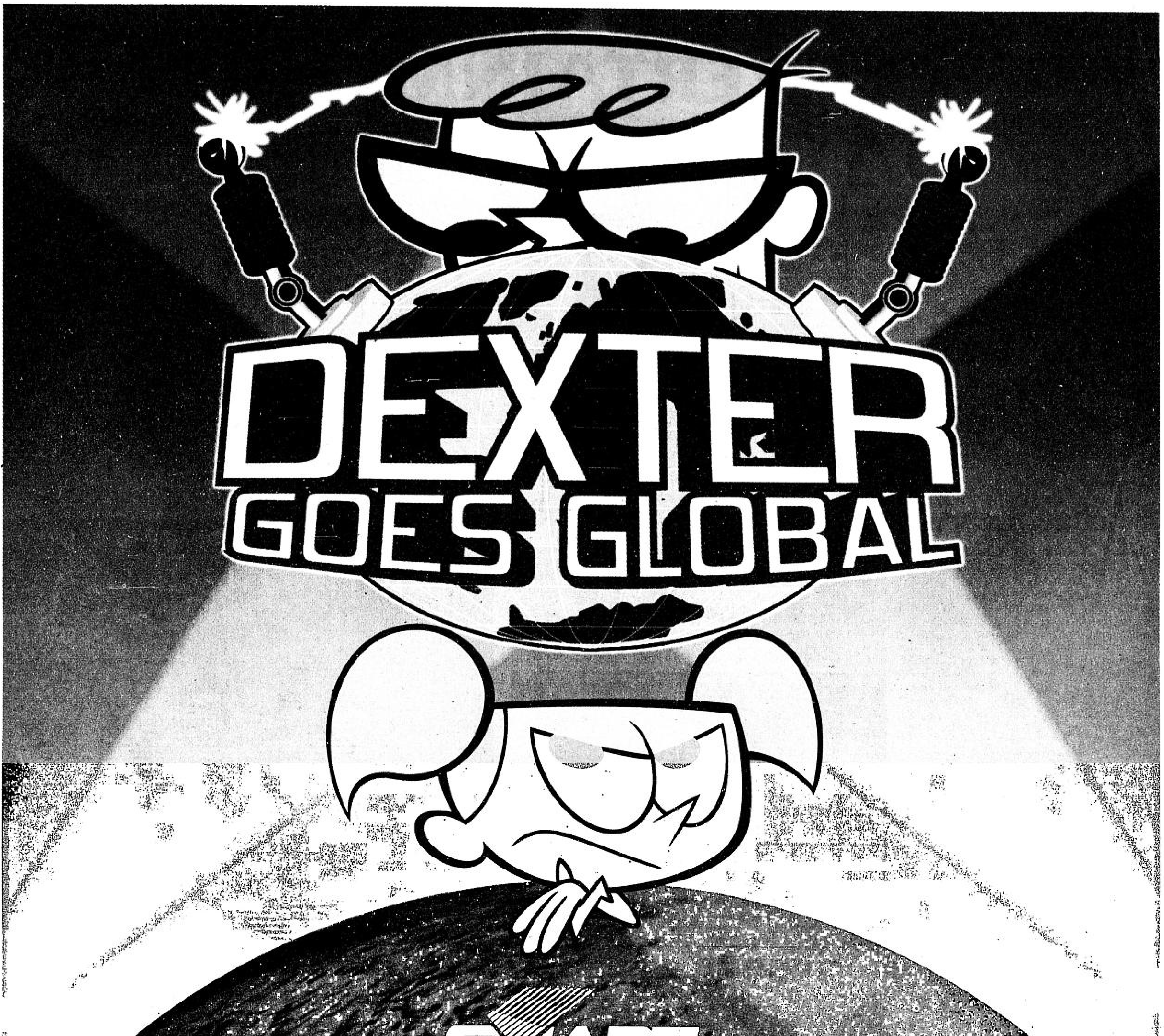
The Best Film About The Impact of The Spanish War @ ARTFILM - Glorietta 4

In the tradition of "Cinema Paradiso," BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE explores the extraordinary relationship between a shy young boy, Moncho, and his incredibly compassionate teacher, Don Gregorio, who teaches Moncho to find his way in a world that is increasingly frightening. When the Spanish Civil war breaks out on July 18, 1936, everything for the boy and his hero will unexpectedly change.

BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE stars the Spanish legend FERNANDO FERNAN GOMEZ who has a career that spans five decades as an actor, novelist, poet, and director. In 1996, he won the Goya (Spanish Oscar) for Best Lead Actor for his latest film "The Grandfather." The film also stars MANUEL LOZANO, UXIA BLANCO, GONZALO MARTIN URIARTE, ALEXIS de los SANTOS and GUILLERMO TOLEDO. The film won Best Film at the Cleveland International Film Festival & Best Screenplay at the Goya Awards.

Directed by JOSÉ LUIS CUERDA and written by RAFAEL AZCONA, BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE is based upon the MANUEL RIVAS novel Que Me Quieres, Amor?.

Language: Spanish with English subtitles

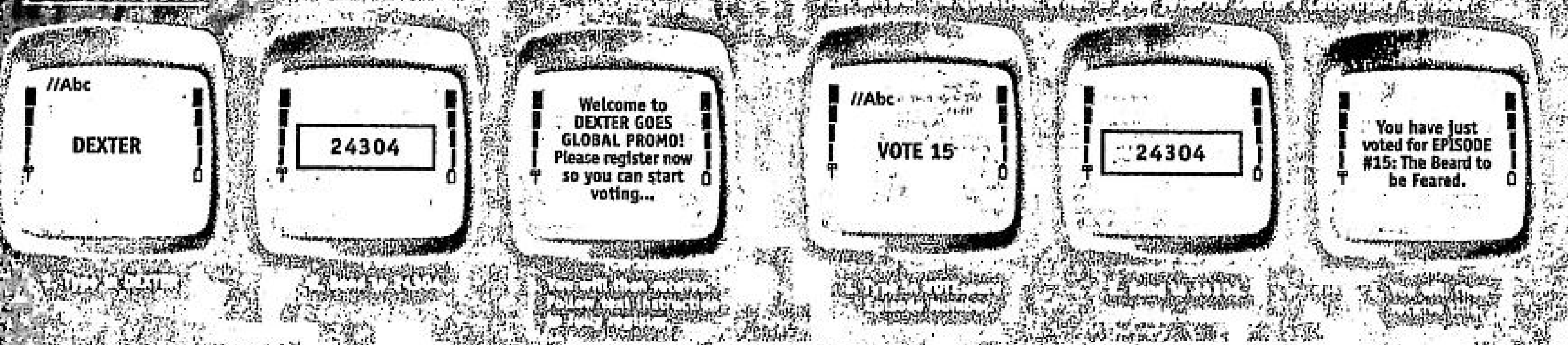


DEXTER GOES GLOBAL

Win one of the 5 SMART Buddy Nokia 3310 phone kits & other big prizes in the "DEXTER GOES GLOBAL" Contest. Just tune in to Cartoon Network, everyday at 5:00 p.m.

You could win a SMART Buddy Nokia 3310 phone kit just by watching Dexter's Laboratory! It's the Dexter Goes Global Contest from SMART and Cartoon Network. It's so easy to join! Just watch Dexter's Laboratory on Cartoon Network, then anytime during the promotional period, use your SMART celfone to text us what your favorite episode is. If you're lucky, you could win a Nokia 3310, a Bankee toy showcase, or Dexter's Laboratory goodie bags. So join Dexter Goes Global Contest now! This experiment could have great results for you!

HOW TO REGISTER **TO VOTE**



//Abc
DEXTER

24304

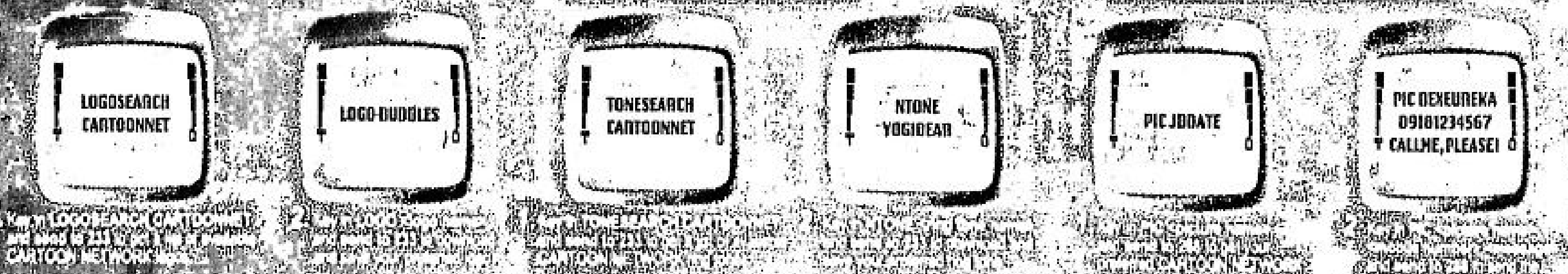
Welcome to DEXTER GOES GLOBAL PROMO! Please register now so you can start voting...

//Abc
VOTE 15

24304

You have just voted for EPISODE #15: The Beard to be Feared.

TO DOWNLOAD LOGOS **TO DOWNLOAD RING TONES** **TO DOWNLOAD PICTURE MESSAGES**



LOGOSEARCH CARTOONNET

LOGO DUDDLES

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NTONE YOGIDEAR

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09181234567
CALLME,PLEASE!

1. Key in LOGOSEARCH CARTOONNET and send to [illegible] CARTOON NETWORK logos.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

[illegible]

Other prizes (for Dexter Goes Global Text Promotion; E-mail and [illegible] contestants)

Winner of "Rock Em Sock Em" toy showcase from Bankee.

Winners of Cartoon Network Dexter's Laboratory goodie bags [illegible] crayons, envelope, postcard and poster.

[illegible] per inquiry, [illegible] per download.

SMART

Simply Amazing!

In cooperation with:

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BUSINESS
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Gov't junks ₱30-B mine project

By Christine A. Gaylican

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has junked a P30-billion nickel mining project in Mindoro, citing environmental concerns.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez said Ms Arroyo concurred with the Department of Environment and Natural Resource's assessment that the mining operations of Canadian firm Crew Development Corp. would inflict "irreparable damage to the environment."

"The President sustained our observation that the Aglubang mining project of Crew transcends the threshold of sustainable development because of technical and social evidence," Alvarez told reporters.

He said while the project entailed over P30 billion in investments, "it may have inflicted irreparable damage to the environment."

Alvarez said he discussed the DENR's decision to revoke Crew Development's mining contract in July with Canadian Ambassador Robert Collette.

Collete raised the issue with Ms Arroyo, but the President upheld the DENR's decision.

In July, Alvarez revoked Crew Development's contract to mine the Aglubang nickel prospect in Mindoro because its site was in a critical watershed.

The environment secretary said the Estrada administration, which gave the Canadian firm its contract, apparently overlooked the environmental implications of the project.

Crew Development has threatened to sue the government but has, for the meantime, sought Ms Arroyo's intervention to reinstate its contract.

This option has apparently been closed.

Ms Arroyo insisted that in her first policy statement on the mining industry, investors would get government support only if the communities around the proposed mine sites were supportive.

She said she was giving information technology more priority than mining, a sector that had seen little activity over the past decade due to growing local hostility toward major exploration and development projects.

"Mining is welcome when the local community welcomes it," Ms Arroyo said, adding: "That's why I'm pushing for information technology."

Sentiments against the mining industry turned sour in 1997 when a copper mine tailings dam collapsed in Marinduque, contaminating a major river system and bringing ruin to farmers and fishermen on the island.

Placer Dome of Canada, the major equity holder of this mine, was later forced to sell its stake in the project.

Criminal cases have been filed against executives of Marcopper Mining Corp. because of the incident. The case is still pending with the Supreme Court, and a resolution is not expected soon, according to industry analysts.

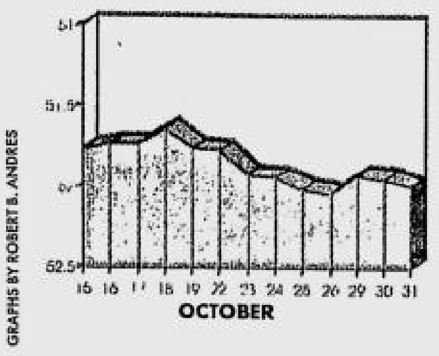
Congress passed a law in 1995 giving generous incentives to local and foreign investors in the mining industry, including 100-percent foreign ownership in large-scale prospects.

However, no new large-scale mining projects have been approved since the law was passed because a tribal group filed a case challenging the constitutionality of the law before the Supreme Court.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

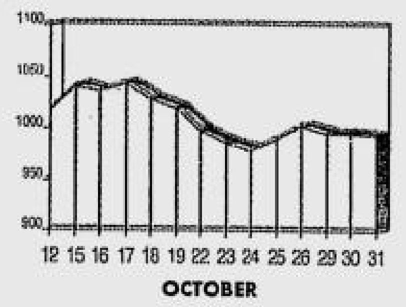
₱51.995 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Oct. 31, 2001

¥121.83 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Oct. 31, 2001

GOLD:$280.50/281.00
per ounce Hong Kong,
Oct. 31, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Market closed

THE STOCK market will be closed today for a public holiday.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index closed 1.79 points, or 0.2 percent, lower at 993.35 last Wednesday, after gaining 0.30 point Tuesday to 995.14.

BSP not targetting currency level

BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said yesterday that the central bank was not targeting any specific level for its currency.

He also said at the World Economic Forum's East Asia Economic Summit in Hong Kong that the central bank would not hesitate to allow the exchange rate to adjust itself.

Meantime, Philippine domestic liquidity, or M3, grew 10.57 percent year-on-year in September, down slightly from growth of 11.1 percent in August, figures on the central bank's website showed. In July, money supply grew 11.9 percent.

M3 consists of money in circulation, demand deposits, peso savings and time deposits or quasi-money and deposit substitutes held by the general public.

Domestic credit to the private sector in September eased 1.4 percent year-on-year, the figures showed. *Reuters*

Security Bank profit up

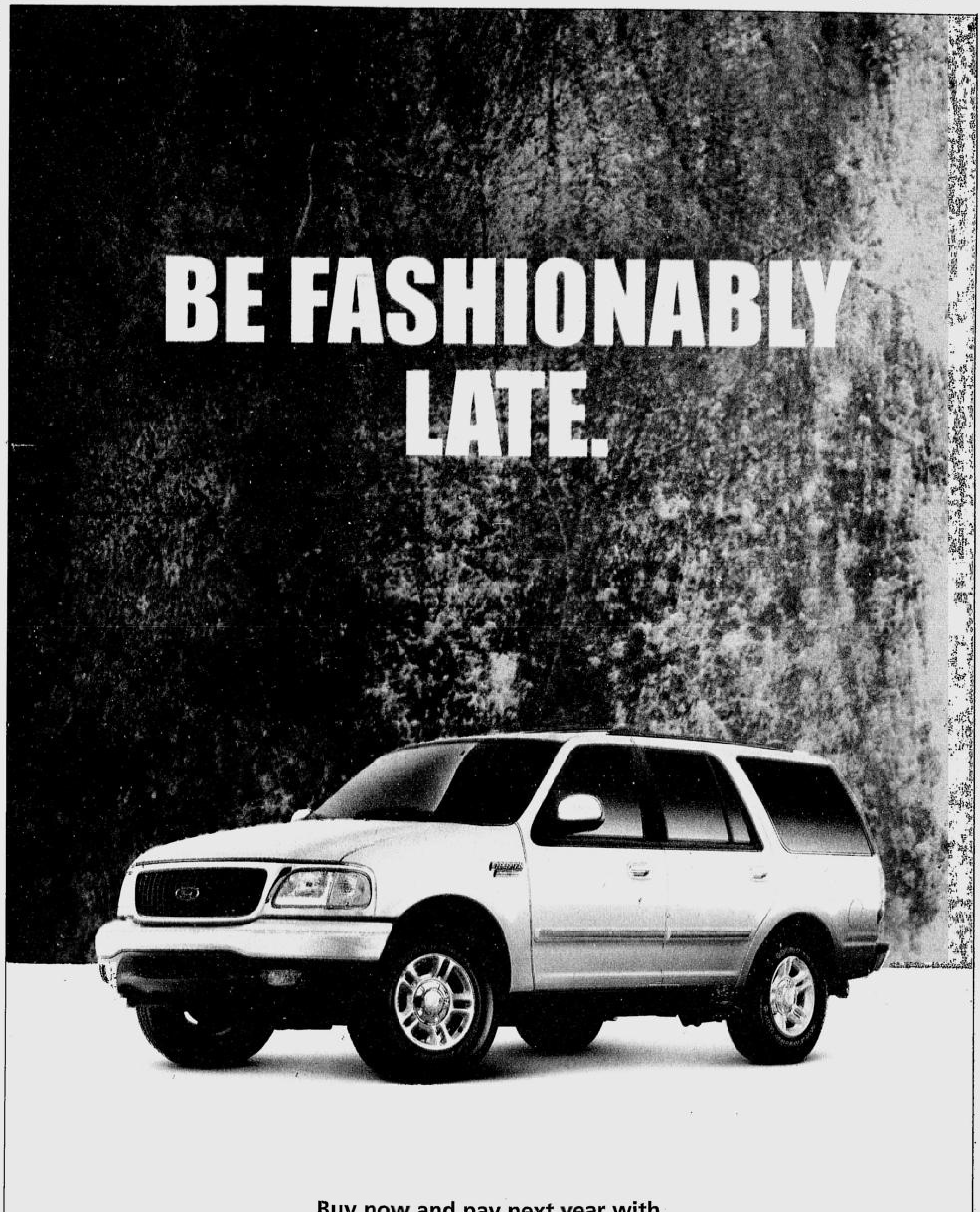
SECURITY Bank Corp., a medium-sized regular commercial bank, posted a slight increase in net income to P336 million during the first nine months of the year from P326 million in the same period last year.

In a statement, Security Bank noted that the increase in profit was despite an aggressive build-up of its loan risk reserves.

For the period, the bank set aside P663 million for probable loan losses or 68 percent more than the amount allocated for the same period last year.

Security Bank explained that it was targeting to eventually raise its non-performing loan reserve cover to 60 percent from 58 percent. The industry standard is 42 percent.

Security Bank's non-performing loan ratio at the end of the third quarter stood at 11.21 percent, substantially lower than the August average of 20.3 percent for universal banks.



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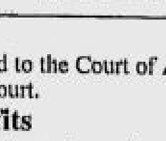
Per DTI-NCR Permit No 3378 Series of 2001.

When employees die

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM



Josephus B. Jimenez

WHILE employers and employees alike are taking a long weekend to honor their dead, it is opportune to contemplate on the legal implications of dying during the period of employment. Fourteen of our 24 Senators and scores of our Congressmen have gone on foreign trips this long weekend. So, we can all rest in peace.

The ties that bind employers and employees are cut off at the moment of death. The contract of employment is terminated. The employer-employee relationship is severed. Work stops. Wages are no longer due. Benefits no longer accrue, except those that precisely become due and demandable because of death, as provided for by law, collective bargaining, company policy or by individual agreements.

The Labor Code makes reference to resignations, retirements and diseases, among others, but chooses to keep silent on death. But labor jurisprudence is eloquent on the ruling that death is also an authorized cause of separation that entitles one to separation pay. An employee who dies during the period of his employment can't be denied separation pay. It is preposterous to allow separation pay to one who suffers from a disease and disallow it to those who die.

One death, three benefits

In the same manner that the employee's retirement pay under Art. 287 of the Code, or under CBA, or a company policy is distinct and separate from the retirement benefits under the SSS Law of 1997 (RA 8282, amending RA 1161). We submit that when an employee dies, he is entitled to both separation pay under the Labor Code as well as the death benefits provided by Sec. 13 of RA 8282. If he were a government employee, his heirs would collect death benefits under Sec. 21 of RA 8291 (The GSIS Act of 1997). The other benefit is under Art. 173 of the Labor Code as explained by Opinion No. 8 of the Justice Secretary on Jan. 12 1990.

The employer pays the separation pay or the retirement pay. The SSS or the GSIS pays the death benefits. The two benefits are separate and should both be paid. The refusal of the employer to pay shall be actionable. The heirs can file the case before the Labor Arbiter as money claims under Art. 217 and can be appealed to the NLRC. The refusal of the SSS and the GSIS to pay can give rise to an appeal to the Employers Compensation Commission (ECC). An adverse decision by the NLRC and the ECC can be raised to the Court of Appeals, and later to the Supreme Court.

Death benefits

Under Art. 194 of the Code, the primary beneficiaries of a deceased employee is entitled to the latter's monthly income benefit plus 10 percent for each dependent child not exceeding five, beginning from the youngest. The primary beneficiaries include the legitimate spouse living with the employee at the moment of death until remarriage, and all children who are either legitimate, legitimated, legally adopted and acknowledged natural who are not over 21 years old, unmarried and not gainfully employed.

Under Sec. 13 of the SSS Law, the beneficiaries are all entitled to a monthly pension in addition to a funeral benefit of P12,000. For government employees, the primary beneficiaries are entitled to survivorship pension for both spouse and children plus a funeral benefit of P12,000, to be increased to P18,000 by year 2002.

The third benefit

Then justice secretary (now Senate President) Frank Drilon issued an opinion, and this is now the rule applied on the matter, that simultaneous recovery of benefits under the Labor Code and the SSS Law can be availed of. Drilon reaffirmed DOJ opinion No. 107 in 1989 that the amendment introduced by PD 1921 to Art. 173 of the Code lifted the ban against double recovery. It was deemed to have likewise amended by necessary implication Sec. 15 of the SSS Law that barred simultaneous recovery. For government employees, however, double recovery is not allowed. Sec. 55 of RA 8291 prohibits it.

The double recovery was allowed on grounds that the benefits provided by the Labor Code's State Insurance Fund was different from the objectives of the SSS Law. The Code intends to compensate the heirs of the deceased. The SSS Law is for social security for which the deceased had contributed. This was decided by the Court in the case of Mano Sugar Central (189 SCRA 88), among others. The SSS is not telling the people for obvious reason.

Portability and third party

RA 7699, approved on Labor Day of 1994, allowed the adding of years of service both in government and in non-government. So, if the deceased employee started working in private firms, then transferred to the government, his death benefits shall be computed by counting his years of service in both the government and private sectors. If he started in government and transferred to the private sector, the same rule applies.

If the death of an employee was caused by negligence of a third party, the SSS or GSIS shall still pay the beneficiaries, but the latter shall sue the guilty party for damages. The excess in the proceeds of the suit (if proceeds exceeded what was paid to the beneficiaries) shall be turned over to the SSS and GSIS.

SSS, GSIS, denial queens

In our past columns, we have demonstrated that both the GSIS and the SSS have the bad habit of denying claims based on technical rules, e.g., that supposedly, the doctrine of presumptive compensability and the theory of aggravation under the old Workmen's Compensation rule have been abandoned. Teachers, soldiers, laborers continue to be denied their dues. We decry this because the Labor Code and the SSS and GSIS Laws are all social legislations which should always be construed in favor of the working class. But they seem impervious to the sufferings of the working class.

And so, when employees die, they die again for lack of government protection. Politicians, who are all out of the country this long vacation, don't have time to lament this tragedy. The dead must take care of themselves.

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez @peppi.com.ph.)

Filinvest to sell ₱2B worth of receivables to trim debts

By Doris C. Dumlao

HOUSING developer Filinvest Land Inc. is selling P2 billion worth of receivables to help cover for around $65 million worth of dollar-denominated bonds maturing this February.

Persons familiar with the matter told the INQUIRER that the sale of its receivables from reserved housing units was part of a package of measures Filinvest was preparing to lessen its debts.

The company earlier announced that it would issue P1 billion worth of long-term commercial papers.

Filinvest is one of the country's oldest and largest residential real estate developers.

The company is confident that proceeds from the sale of its receivables and long-term commercial papers will be enough to retire the bulk of its maturing dollar-denominated debts.

Property analysts said these cash-raising ventures should assure the market that Filinvest would keep its good credit standing despite the continued slump in the property sector.

They warned, however, that the sale of Filinvest's receivables could result in a slightly lower bottom line owing to lower interest income from the company's housing projects.

The company's total long-term debt stood at P5.3 billion as of June this year.

Philippine Rating Services Corp., an affiliate of international rating agency Standard & Poor's, has maintained its "Aa" rating for long-term commercial papers of Filinvest.

This rating indicates that the issuer has a "strong capability for timely repayment of principal and interest on its obligations."

Explaining its rating, Philratings said: "Margins of protection may not be as large as in 'Aaa' issues. Fluctuations of protective elements may be of greater amplitude or there may be elements that make the long-term risks appear somewhat larger than for Aaa-rated securities."

Aaa-rated securities, on the other hand, are those with the "smallest degree of investment risk."

"The rating on Filinvest's debt issue is based on the company's above-average business profile stemming from its position as a large and established homebuilder with a prudent operating strategy," Philratings said.

"Filinvest's earnings level remains acceptable and relatively stable, while cash flow measures are seen as moderate. These factors, however, are still balanced against a still difficult market environment, which can continue to constrain demand in the property sector," it said.

SEC set to appoint acting exchange chief

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission said it would appoint an acting president for the Philippine Stock Exchange if it would fail to elect a replacement for president Ramon Garcia by Nov. 29.

SEC Chair Lilia R. Bautista said this in a letter sent to PSE chair Felipe Yap Friday.

In a lunch meeting earlier that day, Yap assured Bautista that the exchange was in the process of finding a replacement for Garcia, who is currently on a terminal leave. He said the bourse has formed a search committee consisting of three non-broker members to screen nominees.

The PSE earlier sacked Garcia over an unauthorized press release scoring Manuel Pangilinan for the changes he was allegedly trying to make in the terms of an agreement donating to the exchange a piece of land and a building at the Bonifacio Global City for the bourse's future unified trading floor.

In the same letter, the SEC directed the PSE to set up, also by Nov. 29, an independent compliance and surveillance group under a corporation to be headed by a non-broker director.

The PSE was also ordered to submit within the same period a business plan that would show the viability of the exchange. The plan, the SEC said, should also contain different measures to bring about a new governance structure at the exchange and provisions to compel compliance with the 20-percent voting rights limitation on any industry, including brokers and dealers.

Under the Securities Regulation Code, no industry group should own or vote on more than 20 percent of the shares of the exchange. The SEC granted the PSE a one-year exemption.

Bautista also ordered the exchange to start working on a memorandum of understanding to cover all aspects of a demutualized exchange, particularly its structure as a self-regulatory organization.

Also, the SEC chief urged the exchange to start selling its shares to institutional investors and to undertake an initial public offering later.

"We are confident that with our support and your efforts in pursuing these activities, we will be able to arrest the worsening condition of our stock market and consequently improve the environment of our capital market," Bautista said.

₱2-B BOT project gets pioneer perks

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BOARD of Investments management committee has endorsed the granting of pioneer incentives to the P2.12-billion computerization project of the National Statistics Office to be undertaken by Unisys Public Sector Services Corp. under a build-transfer-and-operate scheme.

The pioneer incentives entitle Unisys up to eight years of income tax breaks, additional deduction for labor expense, importation of consigned equipment for 10 years and employment of foreign nationals.

The BOI management committee has required Unisys to start the commercial operations of the project before year's end. Unisys is mandated to transfer its system to the NSO by 2007 and implement the outsourcing or cooperation phase from 2007 to 2012.

Other requirements imposed by the BOI were the yearly submission of reports on investments, taxes and employment; compliance with environmental laws and regulations; increase in its capital stock to comply with the 75:25 debt-to-equity ratio within one year from date of registration, and the implementation of a tree planting program (100 forest trees).

Unisys won the bidding for NSO's Civil Registry System Information Technology Project in 1999. The project is aimed at hastening the issuance of copies of certification for birth, death, marriage and other documents as well as minimizing fraud and fabrication of civil registry documents.

Money supply growth tapers off

By Clarissa S. Batino

DESPITE the slowdown in the growth of money supply in the system to 10.6 percent in September from 11.1 percent in the previous month, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas remained hesitant to reduce the reserve requirement it imposes on banks.

Sources said this was due to rising concerns about the impact of the P30 daily wage hike on the inflation.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said monetary authorities might discuss the merits of a cut in the reserve requirement in their upcoming meetings but would likely deem the current level to be ideal.

Buenaventura said he would look into it but added that he believed there was still enough liquidity in the system to warrant a cut in the reserve requirement.

Domestic liquidity is a measure of money supply, including money held by individuals, institutional investors and banks. A slowdown in the liquidity indicates a decline in consumer spending as well as in demand for loans.

The liquidity level rose by 10.6 percent in September to P1.46 trillion from the year-ago level of P1.32 trillion.

The BSP increased the banks' reserve requirements twice—first in late July and the second in early September—bringing the level to 20 percent from only 16 percent in June.

With the two rounds of increases, the BSP said it was able to siphon off from the system almost P55 billion in excess money. The BSP suspects that unscrupulous groups use the excess liquidity to speculate against the peso.

Meantime, the BSP said that a sluggish demand for loans was partly responsible for the slowdown in the growth of money supply.

A BSP official said the sluggish lending activity of banks reflected the hesitance of businesses to expand and of individuals to spend more as economic and political uncertainties continue to linger.

As of September, net domestic credits or the record of all borrowings in the system including loans from banks grew by 2.1 percent compared with last year's level.

The growth in net credits was lower than the August level of 4.1 percent, which was due largely to increased government borrowings from the private sector.

As of August, government loans from the banking sector contracted by 0.3 percent which meant that institutions other than banks have been gobbling up government securities being auctioned regularly by the Bureau of Treasury.

The central bank had intended to let domestic liquidity grow by 15 percent by year's end. But after the increases in the reserve requirement in July and September, domestic liquidity is now expected to grow 13 percent or even lower.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Wednesday, October 31, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41	41.5	40.5	40.5	1,187,200
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	18	18	18	18	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	18	18	18	18	5,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	165	167	164	165	185,260
Philippine National Bank	47	48	47	48	408,200
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	18	18	18	18	1,700
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	40,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	235	242	235	242	170
Manulife Financial Corp.	1245	1260	1245	1260	430
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1055	1065	1045	1065	12,610
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.		25	25	25	25
3,300					
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	630,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	540	540	535	540	8,050
Ipeople Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	500,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.25	45,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	380	387.5	380	380	106,350
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.014	7,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	21	22	21	22	28,200
Manila Electric Co. B	32	33	32	33	595,000
Petron Corp.	1.06	1.08	1.02	1.02	5,067,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.8	0.82	0.8	0.82	60,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.28	1.32	1.28	1.32	1,207,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	4,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	335,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11	11	11	11	67,200
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	24	24	23.25	23.75	45,200
RFM Corp.	2.04	2.06	2.04	2.06	153,000
San Miguel Corp. A	39	40	39	39.5	169,300
San Miguel Corp. B	44.5	45	44.5	45	297,000
Universal Robina Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	50,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.4	4.45	4.4	4.4	4,240,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	140,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	60,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.59	0.6	3,820,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	80,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	22.25	22.25	22	22	842,600
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	10,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.59	0.57	0.59	2,380,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.195	380,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	2,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.21	0.25	0.21	0.25	90,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Prime Gaming Phils. Inc.	20	20	20	20	100
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.8	0.8	0.79	0.79	350,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	40,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	130,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	2,200,000
Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.	12.5	12.5	12	12	7,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	130,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25.5	26	25.5	26	286,400
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	11	11	11	11	400
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	525	525	520	520	480
Jollibee Warrants	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	4,100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	20,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.6	8.6	8	8.3	28,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.35	4.5	4.35	4.4	10,723,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.195	2,430,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.08	1.1	6,318,000
City & Land Developers	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	400,000
SM Development Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.6	1,134,000
Mining					
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	500,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,500,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	2,000,000
South China Resources Inc	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	60,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,843,070	112,229,650.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	52,083,080	152,473,910.00
PRO	21,105,000	61,690,330.00
Mining	2,000,000	99,000.00
OIL	3,060,000	49,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	80,091,150	326,541,890.00

AVERAGES

Banks & Fin Svc	387.56	UP 1.28
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,409.45	DOWN 6.84
PRO	439.27	UP 2.36
Mining	998.12	UNCH 0.00
OIL	1.28	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	643.01	UP 1.61
Composite	993.35	DOWN 1.79

NO. OF ADVANCES: 22; NO. OF DECLINES: 14; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 36; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 72; NO. OF TRADES: 1,380

CURRENCIES

Oct. 31, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.105217	1.000000	51.9350
Japan	Yen	0.009062	0.008199	0.4258
United Kingdom	Pound	1.604001	1.451300	75.3733
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.141877	0.128370	6.6669
Switzerland	Franc	0.680385	0.615612	31.9718
Canada	Dollar	0.700391	0.633714	32.9119
Singapore	Dollar	0.606063	0.548366	28.4794
Australia	Dollar	0.560454	0.507099	26.3362
Bahrain	Dinar	2.931765	2.652661	137.7659
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.295513	0.267380	13.8864
Brunei	Dollar	0.602955	0.545554	28.3333
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000107	0.000097	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.024769	0.022411	1.1639
UAE	Dirham	0.300985	0.272331	14.1435
Korea	Won	0.000858	0.000776	0.0403
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.904800	46.9908
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.462617	24.0260
France	Franc	0.152450	0.137936	7.1637
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.410580	21.3235
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.065754	3.4149
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022429	1.1649
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000467	0.0243
Finland	Markka	0.168187	0.152176	7.9033
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004513	0.2344
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005438	0.2824
Luxembourg	Franc	0.024789	0.022429	1.1649
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.148859	59.6660

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

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Biggest electronics show slated in Manila

THE PHILIPPINES biggest and most comprehensive electronics show is slated to be held this year at the World Trade Center in Metro Manila.

Dubbed Philtronics 2001, the 8th Philippine International Electronics Manufacturing Technology Exhibition and Conference, the event incorporates Componex Philippines, Semiconductor Philippines and PCB Assembly Philippines. The show's exhibitors are composed manufacturers, suppliers and distributors of the semiconductor and electronics industries, precision engineering industry, microtronics devices, PCB assemblies and supporting industries, electronics components and parts, OEM and production equipment.

IIR Exhibition Phils. Inc., the show's organizer, which can be contacted at 750-8588, said that last year's Philtronics show attracted some 7,000 visitors with purchasing people comprising the largest group at 23 percent of the visitors. According to IIR, Philtronics is an important event for the country as electronics comprise more than half of the country's exports last year. The strong growth in export of the electronics sector was credited as having contributed to the Philippines emerging as the top exporter in the Asian region in 1999.

Expectations are high for Philtronics 2001, considering the positive testimonials of last year's exhibitors. Leo Santos, president of Globaltech Automation Inc., said that their company successfully introduced their new products to their target customers during the show. Jojo Capaque, general manager of Kemtronix Systems Inc., said that Philtronics has attracted hundreds of companies seeking appropriate solutions to their technical problems. Emelita Navo, managing director of Minami Engineering Co. Ltd., paid tribute to the well-coordinated management of the exhibition.

Philtronics 2001 is being supported by the Institute of Electronics Communications and Engineers of the Philippines Inc., Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers of the Philippines Inc. and the Philippine Electronics and Semiconductor Suppliers Association Inc. and the AEIS of Singapore.

UP ENDOWMENT FUND

Makati Mayor Jejomar S. Binay, Sr. has donated an endowment fund for a professorial chair to the University of the Philippines recently. The fund will be allocated for research in Filipino language, Philippine literature and culture. In photo are (from left, seated), Dr. Rosario Torres-Yu, Dean of the College of Arts and Letters (CAL); Mayor Binay; Dr. Emerlinda Roman, Chancellor of the University of the Philippines, Diliman (CAL); and Dr. Apolonio Bayani Chua, chair of the Dept. of Filipino and Philippine Literature (DFPL). Standing are Gerry Limlingan (left), the mayor's consultant, and professor Wendell Capili, assistant dean of CAL.

NETWORK PRODUCES THREE MILLIONAIRES

RMN, the country's largest radio organization with 50 stations nationwide, proclaimed three new millionaires when it awarded P1 million each to Maribeth Baluyot of Montalban, Rizal, Joan Lim of San Carlos City and Rubina Gayda of General Santos City in the 'Radyo Milyonaryo Nationwide Promo Part 2.' At the draw held at the PSC-Ultra in Pasig City were 558 RMN News Manila's ace anchorman Jay Sonza, actress Ara Mina and RMN president Eric Canoy. The nationwide promo was sponsored by Safeguard, Vetracin, Juicy Fruit Gum, Latigo 100, Baguio Oil, Biogesic, Enervon C, and Alaxan.

Hang Ten introduces four new head-turning fragrances

HANG Ten Philippines, a popular casual clothing brand for the upbeat youth, introduces to the Philippine market four new zestful fragrances that can make heads turn in delight.

Distinct for their pleasurably fresh yet subtle appeal to the olfactory senses, the latest Hang Ten body mists – Lift, Fertile, Detox and Soothe – are for discerning young men and women who want to smell good and feel good.

"We were inspired to create these fragrances because of a strong market demand, particularly from the youth segment, for an original line of scents that can truly express one's individuality," Hang Ten explains in a statement.

Lift, Fertile, Detox and Soothe are available in three convenient variants for everyday use: in 100ml and 25ml eau de toilette bottles and in a 10-ml eau de parfum roll-on.

All four fragrances have a hint of cool and rejuvenating fruity scents that provoke the senses: Lift (which comes in blue packaging) is cogent and pleasing; Fertile (red) is sweet and romantic; Soothe (orange) is relaxing and frisky; while Detox (green) is confident and charming.

Hang Ten is a place to go for stylish and colorful casual apparels that would break the melancholic mood of the rainy season. Consistent to its "Time to Wear Color" theme, the clothing shop brings to the Philippine market reasonably priced shirts and pants that create a youthful look.

Through the years, Hang Ten has become synonymous to trendy yet practical get-up pieces with designs that top every fashion conscious' top picks. Besides colorful apparels, Hang Ten also has fashion accessories to complete a makeover – bags, shoes, caps and belts in creative designs and shades.

There are 31 Hang Ten branches all over Metro Manila, Batangas, Cabanatuan, Cebu (Ayala Center), Iloilo, Davao, SM Pampanga and Gaisano Davao. Loyal patrons may likewise anticipate the opening of four new Hang Ten branches in Robinsons Place Pasig and Iloilo City, Pacific Mall in Legaspi City, and in Shoemart (SM) Davao. All Hang Ten products sold locally are imported.

PHOTO BY JOHNNY VILLENA

LACTUM HONORS KIDS

Cognizant of the important contributions children give to the family, Children of the World Foundation and Lactum, the milk that helps give 100-percent nourishment, has come up with an event that pays tribute to the Filipino children. Launched Oct. 20 was 'Lactum Children's Day, A Carnival of Fun.' The event aims to pay tribute to the members of the family that give utmost joy and pride-- the kids. In the Philippines, October is known as Children's Month. Children of the World Foundation and Lactum has, thus, formulated the Ten Commandments on Children's Day--a guideline which puts a premium on children's rights for a happy childhood, nutrition, school, and family. Shown at the Children's Month Celebration press conference was Erlind Legaspi, directress of the Children of the World Foundation and Guthrie Collado, product manager of Lactum.

PCCA RELIEF TO FIRE VICTIMS

The Phil-Chinese Charitable Association (PCCA) recently distributed relief goods to Tondo fire victims, in coordination with the Fil-Chinese General Chamber of Commerce Inc. and the United Daily News. Shown are Dr. James Dy, PCCA chair and members of his team distributing rice and canned goods.

Parker is ideal ad medium

OFTEN described as the world's most preferred pen, the Parker brand combines contemporary design and traditional craftsmanship to present the best image for your company. Promotional campaigns are made more accessible and impactful when tastefully reproduced on the surface of an elegant Parker pen. The marking capability of the brand is impressive (from its "accurate registration" imprinting, logo engraving, attractive clip and crown emblems, discreet clip badges and clip monogram that carry names or initials, to entire pens customized to client's specifications), offering ad styles that range from the exciting to the stylishly subtle. No wonder many major companies worldwide and leading manufacturing firms in the country consider the Parker pen to be mightier than your average advertising medium.

Unlike cheap pens that usually get misplaced, the Parker pen will continue to be appreciated long after most other specialty advertising items have been discarded and worn out. Its precision engineering allows owners to experience the pure pleasure of writing, at the same time providing unconditional guarantee against failures due to faulty materials or workmanship throughout the life of the original owner.

Easy to store, transport and distribute. Parker pens make excellent promotional gifts and giveaways. Whether enticing potential clients or thanking reliable suppliers, marketing an advertising idea or establishing a product identity, this ad channel goes a long, long way. To know more about the many different corporate possibilities with Parker, call 363-8888 and 364-6041 to 49.

Parker was recently voted Reader's Digest SuperBrand in Asia and the Philippines.

SHOWCASE OF GLOBAL RP

Procter & Gamble Asia Pte Ltd director Pramod Agarwal (left) and treasury manager Devraj Doss (right) show to Board of Investments director Eloisa Lim how P&G provides accounting and financial reporting services to its various offices worldwide. Lim's visit is part of the government campaign to attract foreign investments by showcasing world-class Philippine-based companies that are successfully doing business globally. Operating from its Manila Service Center in Makati, P&G Asia generates revenues of more than $40 million annually from its markets in North America, Australia, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, India, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Taiwan, Malaysia and Indonesia. The project has created more than 500 jobs for Filipino professionals.

CAT-GAS AWARDS FRANCHISE

Cat-Gas, an emerging player in the LPG industry, recently awarded the franchise for the Manila area to be able to widen the scope of distribution for the Cat-Gas colored LPG tank products. Shown during the signing are (seated, left) Raymond Balila, franchise holder, and Jerome Gutierrez, Cat-Gas chief operating officer. Also shown are (standing from left) Robin Galang, Cat-Gas OIC; Therese Gutierrez, and Antero Punzalan, Cat-Gas operation director LPG division.

Make love, not war, with MSV

Enough of too much hate and anger. Time to heal wounds and mend broken hearts. Make love, not war, by getting romantic with the country's best-selling My Special Valentine (MSV) pocketbooks. This week, Bookware Publishing Corp. is releasing 12 new titles written by a new breed of novelists who believe that love is still the most powerful weapon not only in the world, but in the universe.

These titles are: "Forever Yours (Kayla Caliente); Tonight is Ours" (Lira Bellafuentes), "Someday…Somewhere" (Ningning Interino); "Someone Like You" (Mariella Rivera); "Friends in Love" (Andrea Guiller); "Trust Your Heart" (Dini Hipolito): "My Burning Desire" (Angeli Benjamin); "It's Hard to Say Goodbye" (Nicole Imperial); "Aagawin Kita" (Estrella Montenegro); "Kung Tuluyan Kang Maging Akin" (Anna Chavez); "Prisoner of Love" (Janelle Gomez); and "Love Never Dies" (Mayet Esteban).

MSV also announces that the next draw of the "Nokia 3310 Raffle Promo" is going to be held at the end of this month. For inquiries, call Dottie Pineda at 631-7811 and 631-8893-94.

Bazaar at Sanctuario Forbes Park

The Southridge Class 2010 is holding a Christmas Bazaar on Sunday, Nov. 4 at Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park. Shopping hours will be a whole day affair from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Organizers offer many unique items at bargain prices, including a variety of food items. Citibank credit cards are honored. Those who wish to get a head start in their Christmas shopping will find the Southridge Bazaar a welcome event.

A farm for relaxation, retirement

Imperial Homes Corp. has tapped the best possible location in the lake-rich city of San Pablo, Laguna. Aptly called Lakeside Farms, it is a tropical farming and fishing village which aims to create a relaxing family weekend or retirement home for people wanting to be reunited with themselves and their families.

It is more than just an ordinary farm, as it offers 24-hour security and resort facilities such as a swimming pool, viewing deck, clubhouse, lagoons, forest park, camping site, prayer gardens, and a lakeside fishing area.

It also offers an attractive payment scheme with only P315,000 down payment, payable in eight months at zero interest and a low monthly amortization of P14,695. For inquiries, call 535-8449.

HANS ENDORSES SHOP

Executive Optical signs in Hans Montenegro of 'Unang Hirit' at GMA 7 as endorser of Executive Optical outlets. With him is Gil Buensuceso, Executive Optical chief operating officer. Executive Optical has 18 branches nationwide. By end of 2001, it expects to have up to 21 branches.

BEAUTY TITLIST ENDORSES LEADS AGRI

A contract signing was held recently between Leads Agricultural Products Corp. and former Miss Universe 1st runner-up Miriam Quiambao. She is now Leads Agri's new image model for its 2002 calendar. Leads Agri is an all-Filipino company that produces agricultural needs only for Filipino farmers. Shown are representatives from the advertising agency (from left, standing) Vi Villavicencio (media planner, Ad Options), Rosanne Hugo (Miriam's talent manager), and Tess Aquino (production head, Ad Options). Signing the contract are Bobot Reyes (creative director, Ad Options) and Quiambao.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978008 (Trunk) Fax 8974008
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8928878
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912 9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5274367 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Inquirer Classified ads branches are open to serve your advertising needs on the following schedule:

Today, November 2
Main Office - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Megamall - 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM

November 3
Main Office - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Kalaw - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Megamall - 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Cubao - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

Cosmetic Surgery
50% Discount
Nose Breast Facelift
Hair Transplant Lipo
Eyebag/Slit Ear Repair
Tel.# 723-2223 • 724-8963
Hosp. MWF 10am/4pm 533-0686

PERSONAL

ARCHITECTS

P6T Hse/Bldg Plan 7282605
P10/m^2 Struc'l Dsn 8819158

CONSTRUCTION/DESIGN

BLDG HOUSE CONST. REPAIR RENOV ROOF PAINT 7408400

We Build Houses 4170012

HEALTH/FITNESS

Slimming Program 521-0663

MASSAGE

ASK ROCKY MALE 24 HRS SERVICES 8511883 100% HOSME

Aldrin•Masseur•704-8757

COLLEGE BOYS 8151168.

F-Escorts 127705080

H-H-MS Male 7314018

H.S. Massage09163924700

Male 16 Palanan 7320659

MASSAGE FRED 8513462

M/F Home/Hotel 432-0118

UNWIND M/F Mkt 7520437

VIP-M/F-8312373 09193591771

REFLEXOLOGY

BANAWE SPA M&F 7411426

CHIRO CARLA 716-4898

Edgar Reflex 7503640 HHS

Edward Reflex 7289285

FIELD OF DREAMS for M/F 7121066 7123699

TUTORIAL LESSONS

•Adept Tutors @ 8833671

AV TUTORIAL SERVICES ELEM/ HIGH SCH /COLLEGE HOME SERVICE 6420739

LA LUZ 5268216/70

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

Avble Good Maids 291-4524

BEST MAID 7111602/7115039

BEST MAIDS 912-4701•9124706

COOK Maid Yaya Driver 8743305

GOOD MAIDS w/NBI 4215588

Help Agency 5328376/5321947

Home Maid Specialist Call Tel. 660-4589

International Cook 8735271•8722792

MAIDS BOY DRIVER 8533504/8533505

NURSE•Midwife•Oldsitter•Yaya 8720265•7722353•8429807

PROVINCIAL ALL AROUND MAIDS Call: Joy 8712372•8722792

Prov'l MAID YAYA COOK LABA BOY DRIVER 873-5062•871-2370

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

LBAHAY 7113540

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

LIPAT CHEAP 5220956

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

LIPAT BAHAY

LIPAT BAHAY
24 hrs. mover MM/Provincial
Tel. # 631-5180 • 631-5162
632-0060 • 632-0048
631-6407 • 631-6408

Lipat Bahay Tel. 824-1227

LIPAT BAHAY w/5 helpers 24 hrs. avo 7128861 / 7316750

•LIPAT•731-6833

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

MANILA

nr Espana 142m^2 no flood 20m frontge3.6M 9256018

Rush Sale new 4 sty bldg. (condo type) LA 161m^2 FA400M^2 cor. lot Sta ana Mla. nr Makati boundary call Gladys 434-5174/897-9654

MARIKINA

450m^2 Ind'l Valley Ideal Pre-School 634-1212

PASIG

Near Shaw/Kapitolyo 387 Sq m. LA w/Hse 10M Weng 658-9009 / 801-6953

QUEZON CITY

TSORA AVE. COM'L APT 2br 2tb 2car grge@15,500 9319117•9319160 TBanez

HOUSE & LOT

LAS PINAS

Alg Alabang - Zapote Rd LA133 FA157 3BR 2TB 2.9M Tel 9126273;9135092

MAKATI

10 MINS. FRM AYALA BNewTwnhse Zobel Roxas Mktl 4sty/3BR/3TB/grge P3.050M up 8903461 loc 34

New 4BR3TB Palanan 8330796

MARIKINA

1511m^2 Ipil St., w/Pool Near S-Mall 6M 634-1212

Grnlnd bnew 3br 2M 9487112

House&Lot Fully Furnished in Marikina 1.5M neg. LA-120 FA-36 Call:Lorena 6812464•09192038659

P1.6M Up Term 678-0760

PASIG

NICE NEW VALLE VERDE 4BR Pool 635-6722

VVerde 5 P17M 425m^2 658-2410

QUEZON CITY

Apo St SMH L-280 V-lot 928-1469

Baler St L-3000 w/Hse 928-1469

Brand New Town-House Bagbag, Sauyo 0919-8707359 • (047) 237-1459

Congressional Ave L-479m^2 Comm'l Lot Call 928-1469

D Tuazon SMH QC L-411m^2 2Stry Call 928-1469

Edsa Alng H-way L-3000 V-Lot Call 928-1469

New Mla Rollin Hill L-258 2Sty 4br 2 Car 928-1469

Samat St SMH QC L-600m^2 5Stry w/Bldg / Whse Call 928-1469

SFDM QC L-624 2Sty Warehse Call 928-1469

RIZAL

Antipolo Town & Country H&L 232m^2 Fenced 3BR2TB Tel line 2CRG Garden Initial Cash Out P1M Bal Neg Terms 6770478 09192328778

Nr Antipolo Church P1.8 LA-346 FA-150 634-1212

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

PROVINCIAL

San Jose Vill Sta Rosa Laguna L-161 or 174 Call 928-1469

Tagaytay Candonwood Club Shares Call 928-1469

Tagaytay L-200m^2 2Sty 3br 3tb 1 car Call 928-1469

LOT

PASIG

Valle Verde IV 860m^2 Call 634-1212

QUEZON CITY

Bessa QC L-932 4 Ind. Lot Call 928-1469

Del Monte L-800m^2 V-Lot Call 928-1469

Fairview QC L-1000m^2 V-Lot Call 928-1469

★ FERNDALE QC ★
Ayala Res Lots now available 204-290m^2 @ P9,500-P12,180 Pay 20%(In 2 mo.)Bal 5 yrs Mo. Inst. Few Lots Only w/ Complete Facilities RUSH! 9319117; 9319160 T.Banez

Loyola Grand adj Ateneo ★09185079799

Marcos Hiway Comm'l LOT L-317 V-LOT 928-1469

New Mla Rollin Hills L-725 V-lot Cor. Lot 928-1469

Rollin Hills V-Lot L-725 Corner Lot Call 928-1469

RIZAL

Angono P1500/m^2 658-2410

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

308m^2 Visaya Ave 4 Lease 9281469

MAKATI

Bonifacio Ridge Mktl Pre-Selling Call 928-1469

MANDALUYONG

Pioneer Highlands 2br 1tb 3.8M DBO 09178143792

PASIG

235 FA Rennaissance 3000 3BR 3TB 2 Prkng 634-1212

67m^2 Condo 1.6M w/Spool 24 Hour Security Nr. C-5 Text/Call 0919-4500718 Emy

Pioneer Hilands 2BR pkg 77m^2 6812457 6457323

Valle Verde 6 very nice 3BR attic P7M 6812457

QUEZON CITY

4-Sale 8-new Town Houses Goodwill Homes 1 Subd 2br 1tb w/Attic Sauyo Bagbag Nova. QC Nr SM City Call or Text 0917-8349085

Cubao Condo P1.3M 10% D/P 9120647 9132224 4381161

Mindanao Ave SMCty P710T-P8.8M★09185079799

REGALIA PARK Cubao 2BR P4M 09185079799

SAN JUAN

Platinum 1 Annapolis 176 FA 17th Flr. 634-1212

AGRICULTURAL LANDS

★SUBIC 50+has.★ w/fruit 3s 0916-3741566

RESORT

PnsolHotSpring P7M 776-7607

FACTORY/WHSE

4000m^2 Beside SM City Alng Edsa Call 928-1469

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MANILA

1BR NR P.GIL •5042670•

QUEZON CITY

10K 2BR SFDM Garage 374-3941

TSORA AVE. COM'L APT 2br 2tb 2car grge@15,500 9319117•9319160 TBanez

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

6K CTSqr CT Land 0916-3009346

PASIG

ASTORIA PLAZA
Ortigas
Full serviced Residences SALE OR LEASE 1-2br AVAIL w/ HOTEL Amenities Comforts of Home Pool, Gym, Spa, coffee Shop, Deli Function Rooms + Business Center Tel. # 6313928 TERE

Horizon 3BR Unfurn P30T 4121825 ; 09177914366

QUEZON CITY

TOWNHOUSE 3BR, 2TB, RD20 Proj. 8 Q.C. Call 0917-2505008

FOR LEASE

2472 Marikina 4Lease 928-1469

578 V-lot Mindanao Ave 4Lease 9281469

717 V-lot Cubao QC 928-1469

801 Quirino H-way 4Lease 928-1469

930m^2 Mindno Ave 4Lease 9281469

Comm.&Res.Apt.right side Makati City Hall 8103019

BUSINESS RENTAL

200SQM GRNDFLR 822 QUEZON AVE T372-2221

Medical Plz 40 75sqm Jollibee 80sqm 412-1825 Centrpt Ofc 140m^2@200/m^2

OFC/COMML/SHOP NR EDSA GUD LOC 5315177/6716870

STORE WID ROLL UP DOOR 524 EDSA CALOOCAN 3610652

WEST-CAP SHAW 3STY NICE BEST LOC 6716870/5315177

RESORT

PansolHotSpring Prvt 776-7507

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HYUNDAI

•96 Grace P193T 9276597•

•98H100 P255T 9276597•

KIA

•96Besta 2.7 P220T 3303748•

•98Besta 2.7 P255T 9276597•

•98Pregio 3.0 P320T 3303315•

•Besta 4WD 240T 9276597

MERCEDES

•98 MB100D P368T 3303315

MITSUBISHI

2000 MX INVECSII MATIC ALL POWER Tel:833-0796

NISSAN

93 VANNETTE 230k 4850061

TOYOTA

93 GLI 220k 485-0061

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue Quezon City 1100 Philippines • Telephone 925-24-01

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites sealed written bids for:

I. One (1) year contract (Jan.-Dec. 2002) for the following:
  a. Laundry Services (linens)
  b. Supply of Medical Oxygen (tanks only)
  c. Aircon Maintenance

Only duly accredited bidders/suppliers will be allowed to participate in the bidding. List of requirements to be submitted:

1. Letter of Intent
2. SEC registration
3. Bus. License
4. List of clients
5. Financial Statement (last 2 yrs.)
6. ITR (last 2 yrs.)
7. Location Map of Office

All interested bidders/suppliers must submit their accreditation documents on or before Nov. 12, 2001 at Purchasing Division.

The PHC reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder/s if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information and the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

(Sgd.) ROMEO J. SANTOS, M.D.
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI -- Oct. 26, 27, 28, Nov. 2, 3 & 4, 2001)

WANTED IMMEDIATELY
CLINIC/RESEARCH NURSE
New Board Passers preferred
Presentable, with good communication skills
Send bio-data and 2x2 colored photo to:
The Clinic Administrator
Room 433, Medical Arts Bldg.
St. Luke's Medical Center
E. Rodriguez Sr. Blvd., Quezon City

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

VAN/PICK-UP

Canter, 4W, Recon, 10ft. Van, Aircon 200,000 Neg. 415-9346 • 0917-3856711

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

Sunflower Transport Starex MB100 Coaster Bus 631-3496 • 637-7396

BNew Pregio L3 825-4058

BrdalMB/Vans9296250;4535288

Cars Vans 4 Rent 8203894

Vans Coaster Bus 913-9123

HONDA MB100 8908668

L300 T 4161105 / 7411356

L300/Vans 578-8917(Roger)

MB HiAce Urvan 825-7135

MB100 Call 643-7397

STAREX L300 CARS 7268388

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

Dog Trainer 09192050952

TRAINER 4520681/0919-7219020

SPORTING GOODS

• Billiards Sales/Service • Complete Acc's 8014494/8020566

Imported Billiard 22T, 35T Complete Acc's. 8618714/16 8613123 / 8613125

New Billiard P18.5T P22T P25T Ok C.Card 781-9453

WANTED TO BUY

B/SELL FUL PD EDUC PLAN 7137284•09177939632

BUYING ROLEX others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2806

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2880

WE BUY **ROLEX** 5633742 5646593 09174383744

Buying Rolex Watch Call 6310815/09178411520

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

Cook 5Visayan Maid 4218262

Lic. Social Workers,House Mothers/Maids 913-0115

WTD:Yaya/ Hse Maids / Family Cook 6604589

MALE/FEMALE

LAWYER W/HONGKONG LICENSE T-372-2221

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

GOLDEN PAWNSHOP, INC. 2000 C.R. Magsaysay Ave, Guadalupe Makati City & 29 Unit 6, Dona Eglantine Mansion, Sierra Madre St, Mandaluyong City. On Nov. 11, 2001 at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. respectively be sold at public auction at the above address all unredeemed articles pledged during the months of Apr. 2001 & May. 2001 whose terms have been expired. (Juan Lanuza & Sons-Licensed Auctioneer)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Bo. Kapitolyo 125m^2 Office or Shop Call 634-1212

BONUAN FOOD SHOP the maker of genuine Dagupan Bonuan Boneless Bangus needs DEALERS we provide freezers for big volume buyers T-925-6854

B/Sell Educ'l 8061574

EARN FR HOME 8531008/09178101851

Who Do You Know In Baguio? TRAVEL & EARN •0743002262 09175064388•

Earn From Home w/Travel 295-2107 • 0917-8135609

GIFTS&TOYS FAIR Nov. 5 - Dec. 3 P5600 per Stall, Livelihood Exhibit Cntr, East Ave Across LTO QC T9257212 9257365 Cell 09178480612 Melvin / Jojo

RTW 4 Tiange Bazar3738821

• WANTED • Computer Whole Saler T:8202777 C:0919-8669171

Work From Home 8937903

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Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cagayan
Municipality of Solana
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Rural Infrastructure Components for which this invitation to pre-qualify and to bid is issued.
2. The Municipality of **SOLANA, CAGAYAN**, as implementing partner of the DAR for ARCP, intends to pre-qualify contractors and if pre-qualified, to bid for the construction and completion of:

CONCRETING OF UBONG BARANGAY ROADS (2.460km. FTMR)

Minimum Equipments required

1 - Road Grader	-Owned/Leased	2 - Concrete Mixer (1 bg.)	- Owned
1 - Vib. Compactor	-Owned/Leased	1 - Concrete Screeder	- Owned
1 - Water Truck	-Owned/Leased	1 - Bar Cutter	- Owned

3. Pre-qualification forms (Pre-C) and bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders at the **MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING OFFICE**, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00)** for each set payable to the Municipal Treasurer. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Submission of application for pre-qualification must be received in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman, PBAC-ARCP, Municipality of **Solana, Cagayan** not later than **November 12, 2001.**
5. The submission and opening of bids will be on **December 12, 2001, at the Conference Hall Office of the Mayor.** No bids will be accepted later than **2:00 PM of December 12, 2001.** The bids shall be valid for a period of 120 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a security of **2.5 percent of the Total Bid Price** or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.
6. The PBAC-ARCP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify to the bidder for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **RODRIGO C. DE ASIS**
Chairman, PBAC-ARCP

(PDI--Nov. 2, 3 & 4, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON
Municipality of Malitbog
-oOo-

OFFICE OF THE PBAC CHAIRMAN

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Municipal Government of Malitbog, Bukidnon through the Pre-Qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC) invites Contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as Medium A & B for Road, to apply for pre-qualification/eligibility screening and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the DAR-ADB Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP) as follows:

Contract Name/Location of Project	Approved Budget For Contract Works	Calendar Days (Duration)
- Rehabilitation of Poblacion - Mindagat Farm-to-Market Road	P8,624,940.00	154 CD

Interested Contractors legally owning desirable heavy equipments such as bulldozer, grader, road roller, backhoe, water truck, concrete vibrator and concrete mixer shall submit their Letter of Intent and duly accomplished Pre-Qualification Statement (Pre-C) to the PBAC Chairman, LGU, Malitbog, Bukidnon on **November 15, 2001.** Eligibility screening shall be held on **November 15-16, 2001** at about 9:00 A.M. New Municipal Hall, Malitbog, Bukidnon.

Only Contractors duly registered with the Department of Public Works and Highways and holding a valid Contractor Registration Certificate (CRC) are allowed to participate in the eligibility screening.

Bid documents will be available to pre-qualified bidders from **November 22, 2001 to November 29, 2001** at the Municipal Engineer's Office, Municipal Hall upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P600.00.

Submission of bid proposal in two sealed envelopes to the PBAC Chairman and Opening of Bids will be on **December 14, 2001,** 9:00-10:00 A.M. at the Municipal Conference Hall.

Bids with submitted bid prices that are higher than the approved budget for the contract under bidding shall be rejected outright.

All particulars relative to Pre-qualification, Eligibility, Bid Security, Performance Bond, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the Provisions of P.D. 1594 as amended on August 2000 and Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The Municipal Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect contained therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **OSMUNDO N. DELA ROSA**
Municipal Mayor/PBAC Chairman

(PDI--Nov. 1, 2 & 5, 2001)

INQUIRER TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Shake, rattle & shoo

Q. Why are babies given rattles as toys?

A. The earliest rattles go back to 2500 B.C. in Egypt, and were given to babies not to amuse them but to ward off evil spirits. Ancient man believed that the loud noise the rattles made would protect the baby by scaring away demons. The Egyptians used the *sistrum*, a rattle with metal rings fitted loosely on rods.

Ooops! The size of the breasts before pregnancy has nothing to do with the amount of milk a woman can produce. Whether breasts are large or small before pregnancy depends mainly on the amount of fat and connective tissue they contain. What counts in milk production is not fat but glandular tissue. All women's milk glands grow and mature during pregnancy. The amount of milk they produce depends on how much the infant stimulates the breasts by sucking: the more the baby nurses, the more milk the breasts give. Thus, supply and demand are usually in equilibrium. A small-breasted woman can make enough milk for her baby as much as a large-breasted woman.

Classified Odd. In February 1982, Dwight Anderson of the University of Southern California scored one of the most 'difficult' goals in basketball history. After a University of Washington player had missed a basket, one of Anderson's teammates snared the rebound and fired the ball upcourt. Anderson raced after the ball, but by the time he caught up with it, he was almost out of bounds. As his momentum carried him over the baseline, Anderson flipped the ball over his head and over the back of the backboard -- and the ball swished through the net. It counted because his feet had not touched the ground even though his body was already out of bounds.

WORD WATCH

Tsamba : from the Spanish *chamba*, 'fluke, chance.'

PDI – November 2, 2001

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RAYMUNDA DABU CABRERA

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 29, 2001 at the age of 92.

Her beloved husband **Leodegario** (†); her loving children **Henry** (†), **Teresita**, **Violeta**, **Leo Jr.**, **Carmelita**, **Mario**, **Virgilio**, **Lourdes** and **Danilo**; in-laws **Sianang Manabat**, **Chedeng Gutierez** (†), **Marilou Lopez**, **Tranquilino Bondoc** (†), **Percival Dasoy**, **Odette Palaypay**, **Pedro Liquete** (†), **Virgilio Gregorio**, **Dr. Lilia Ventura**, **Mely Samson**, **Daniel David** and **Gloria Lugtu**; grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Inang's remains lie in state at the St. Louis Memorial Chapel in San Fernando, Pampanga.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 3, 2001 at the Good Shepherd Memorial Park after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at St. Louis Memorial Chapel.

PURITA T. PEÑALOSA

Peacefully joined her Creator on November 1, 2001
at the age of 72.

Her late husband **Rodolfo Peñalosa** (†); loving children **Tikboy**, **Tessie**, **Nidia**, **Ramon**, **Anet** and **Mart**; sons- and daughters-in-law, grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal rest of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Marian Memorial Chapels, Marcos Hi-way, Antipolo City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, November 6, 2001, 10:00 a.m. at Holy Gardens Memorial Park, Sumulong Hi-way, Antipolo City.

MAYOR BERNARDO "BOMBET" SAYAROT

Mabitac, Laguna

Born on March 12, 1953 peacefully joined our Creator
on October 29, 2001 at the age of 48.

His dearest wife **EVA SAYAROT**; and children **Kathleen**, **Karen**, **Bernard Lou**, **Paula**, **Meng** and **Luigi**; parents **Artemio & Feliciana Sayarot**; mother-in-law **Avelina Endaya**; brothers **Danilo**, **Arturo & Ladislao**; sisters **Normita**, **Adelaida & Cristy**; in-laws, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Funeral Mass will be on Saturday, November 3, 2001 at 8:30 AM in the Santuario de San Antonio Church. Interment will be at 10:00 AM at the Heritage Park, Global City, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

Please omit flowers, instead, donations to Mayor Bernardo Sayarot Scholarship Projects will be greatly appreciated.

"If man gives himself to help other men,
the happiness of Christ will live within."

On the **25th death anniversary** of

VICENTE L. DAÑGUILAN, M.D.

December 17, 1922 -- November 2, 1976

We remember him with love and prayers.
Belen, **Toti** and **Cora**, **Joselito** and **Pengie**, **Marilen**,
Tommy and **Ruby**, **Marites** and **Vet**
grandchildren **Ginny**, **Totong**, **Pinggoy**, **Justin**,
Glad, **Pepetton**, **Cecille**, **Alab**

ENGR. GERMAN T. DANQUE

of Iloilo, Bataan and Parañaque

has peacefully joined his wife ***Paulina****, in the Lord's Kingdom*
on October 28, 2001 at the age of 91.

His children **Baby** and **Rene dela Cruz**, **Vickie Briones**, **Ely** and **Venn Marasigan**, **Nice** and **Ben Cruz** and **Rudee**; his brother **Marianing**; his grandchildren and great grandchildren together with all his relatives request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Body lies in state at the Sta. Rita Funeral Chapel (K.C. Willmann) in Baclaran, Parañaque City.

Funeral Mass will be on Sunday, November 04, 2001 at the Sta. Rita Church, 1:30 p.m.

Interment will follow at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

3RD DEATH ANNIVERSARY

AUGUSTO "BLONY" OCAMPO CAMPOS

30 August 1934 -- 02 November 1998

His children **Sarah** and Ricky, **Joey** and Dina, **Janet**, **Judith**, **Nonoy**, **Junsky** and Mary Rose, **Jojo** and Bob, **Jennifer**, **John** and Chrisette and **Paolo**; grandchildren Bam, Blonski, Adlyn, Javi, Llonnie, Enzo, Church, Sandro, Jasmine, Danielle, Tara, Robby, Ricardo, Keoni, Bea, Blony, Andy, Cheru and Iñaki; other relatives and friends request pious readers to remember **BLONY** in their prayers.

Masses will be offered on 02 November 2001 at the following:

Colegio de Sta. Rosa (*Estrella St., Makati*)	6:00 a.m.
St. Jude Thaddeus Parish (*Trece Martires City, Cavite*)	6:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Remedies Parish (*M.H. Del Pilar, Malate, Manila*)	6:00 a.m.
St. John Bosco Parish Church (*Pasay Road, Makati*)	6:30 a.m.
Sto. Niño de Paz Community (*Greenbelt Chapel, Makati*)	7:15 a.m.
Parokya Ng Immaculada Concepcion (*Antipolo*)	8:00 a.m.
St. Thomas More Chapel (*Rockwell Drive, Makati*)	12:00 p.m.
Sanctuario de San Antonio (*Forbes Park, Makati*)	12:15 p.m.
Carmel of Our Lady Mary Mediatrix of All Grace (*Lipa City, Batangas*)	4:00 p.m.
Mary The Queen Parish (*Greenhills, San Juan*)	6:00 p.m.
Parish of Sta. Maria dela Strada (*La Vista, Quezon City*)	6:00 p.m.
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liquori Parish (*Magallanes, Makati*)	6:00 p.m.
St. Andrew The Apostle Parish (*Bel Air, Makati*)	6:30 p.m.
Sto. Rosario Parish (*San Pedro, Laguna*)	7:30 p.m.

"...absent with
the body to be
present with
the Lord."
2 Cor. 5:8

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life
and I shall live in the house of the Lord forever."
Psalm 23:6

CONSORCIA LEGASPI VDA. DE ALVARADO

Peacefully joined her Lord and Father on 29th October 2001 at the age of 80.

Her bereaved children request the pious readers and friends to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Viewing is on going at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City until Sunday, November 4 up to 2:00 PM.

Remains will be brought at the Immaculate Concepcion Parish Church in Quezon City on Sunday, November 4 at 2:30 p.m. for blessing.

Remains will be taken to Hermosa, Bataan where interment is scheduled on November 6 at 3:00 PM.

ANTONIO G. MARIANO

of Mandaluyong and Parañaque
May 3, 1928 - November 1, 2001

His bereaved wife **Dr. Leonida**; daughter and son-in-law **Gemma** and **Allen Tan**; grandchildren **Selene**, **Athena**, **Francis**; sisters and brother, relatives and friends, request the kind readers to pray for his eternal rest.

His body lies in state at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Ligouri Chapel, Magallanes Village, Makati City until the interment on November 4, 2001 at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque at 3:00 p.m.

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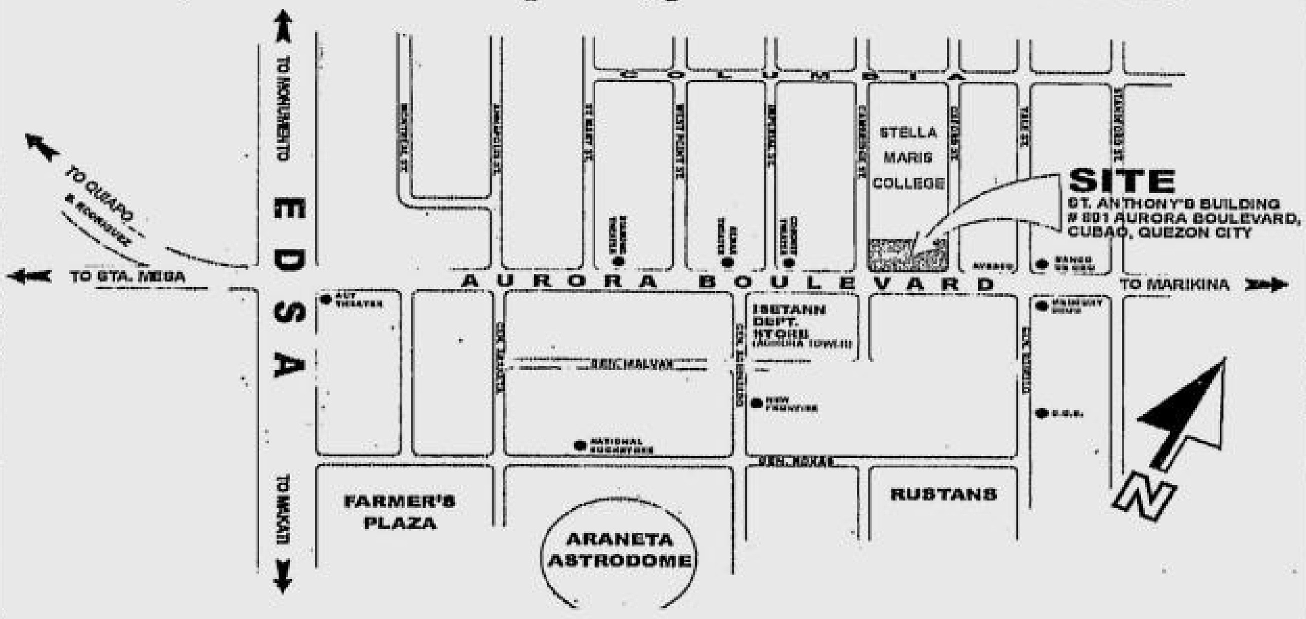


MARKETING STRATEGY

Tapping OFWs' taste for scotch

By Abigail L. Ho

FILIPINO *balikbayans* have turned gifting into an art. Buying *pasalubongs* for loved ones has become a ritual for almost every Filipino who leaves the country. Even during tough economic times, Filipinos find it hard to resist the urge to buy something, anything, for their loved ones here at home.

Of the things *balikbayans* bring home to their loved ones, liquor or spirits top the list, followed by chocolates and other confectioneries, cigarettes, perfume and jewelry.

Most of those who opt for spirits go for Scotch whisky because of its unique taste and the prestige that come with giving someone a bottle of Scotch. This is where Dimple Premium Scotch Whisky 15 Years Old comes in.

It has been around since the 17th century, but it only hit the Philippine market last month. But Dimple cannot be found in just any liquor store. For now, it is exclusively available to Duty Free Philippines customers.

International Distillers Phil. Inc. marketing manager Glenn Zapanta says this is because the target market for Dimple is really the *balikbayans*.

"Our insight is that 70 to 80 percent of Filipino *balikbayans* are keen on gifting the *pasalubong* concept. Some Filipinos from abroad have had an experience with the brand a couple of years back. This time, we want to make it more accessible to Duty Free Philippines customers," he tells the INQUIRER.

Since its launch in Oct. 11, Dimple has not engaged in any massive advertising campaigns to make Filipinos aware of the product. "Our advertising was skewed toward people who go to Duty Free," he adds.

Most of the ads for Dimple are airline ads: posters in the airports, placements in in-flight magazines and billboards outside the airports.

It also has a product display booth at the Duty Free Philippines Fiesta Mall where *balikbayans* and tourists alike can sample the Scotch whisky.

"Our boss (from the regional office) was here recently and he said the Dimple booth at Duty Free Philippines has one of the world's best Dimple displays," Zapanta proudly says.

He admits, however, that very few Filipinos are aware of the brand. This is precisely why the Dimple Philippine launch took one year to plan and develop.

Preparations include market research, getting the pulse of the consumers and planning how exactly the launch will take place.

"International Distillers has a consumer-driven strategy. This means listening to the consumers. When we give consumers something, it fulfills a specific need. In the case of Dimple, that need is gifting," Zapanta explains.

He says most companies do it the other way around. They develop a product first, then they force the market to accept it.

International Distillers, however, believes that customers should get the products they want. They should not be forced to accept whatever products companies come up with, Zapanta says.

The Dimple Philippine launch was also strategically timed to coincide with the peak arrival season: the months of October, November and December.

"No matter where Filipinos are, they make it a point to come home for the holidays. Even during bad times, Filipinos will find a way to leave their jobs abroad to be with their families on Christmas," Zapanta says.

The Dimple tagline, "what great performances deserve," is specifically for the overseas Filipino workers. Zapanta explains that OFWs deserve to enjoy some luxuries after spending most of their time working in places thousands of miles from home. Their loved ones in the Philippines also deserve to receive special gifts from them.

The Dimple recipe is more than 400 years old, a legacy of Scotland's Haig family of distillers. It was developed by generation upon generation of Haigs until John Haig in 1870 employed the newly developed practice of blending.

In 1890, a special blend, the Dimple Scotch whisky known today, came out. With the new unique blend came a bottle equally unique to house the precious liquid.

This is the world-renowned Dimple triangular bottle, "hailed as the most beautiful bottle in the world," Zapanta says.

Filipinos have also given it a warm welcome to the Philippine market. Zapanta says the reception is "more than what they expected," despite the absence of a major advertising campaign and Dimple's premium price.

The feedback they have gotten from customers over the few weeks the product has been out in the market is that Dimple makes a very nice gift.

Breathing life into the 'dead' industry

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE LOCAL funeral industry can be considered as dead as the people it services. Not that there are no more deaths to service, far from it, with over 750,000 deaths a year. It is just that for the past decades, the funeral service industry has not progressed, nor improved, much to the sorrow of families in grief.

Go to any funeral and it is the same. There is a casket in front, a multitude of flowers on the side and two large chandeliers or lampposts beside the casket. Once you have seen one, you've seen them all, so to speak. This makes it appear that every person that dies is the same. But it is not, especially to those who hold the person dear or close to their hearts.

This is one reason why in the past decade, the American funeral industry has undergone a significant change.

From an industry that was also about a casket, and gaudy lampposts and flowers, there has been a shift to a more personalized approach to the funeral service. The service is now about celebrating the life of the person that passed away, to help people remember what he or she was like when he was alive.

When golfer Payne Stewart passed away after figuring in an accident, his family spent half a million dollars for his funeral. Only about $750 went to the funeral service itself and the rest went to an event planner.

The event planner was tasked by Stewart's family to send him off in style with his ashes spread over a particular patch of earth that he loved.

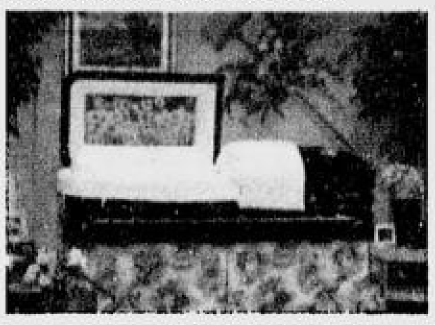
FILIPINOS are starting to catch on the trend of personalized funerals. The family of a grandmother, for instance, surrounded their Lola's urn with the plants she loved.

And who could forget the funeral of Britain's Princess Diana. She again went against tradition when a pop music star, Elton John, sang at her funeral.

And the trend of celebrating the life, instead of concentrating on death, is starting to catch on in the Philippines. This presents a good business opportunity for those who want to get into the business of planning a funeral service. If there are wedding planners and children's party coordinators, then there could emerge funeral service planners.

This is because family members left behind by their loved ones now choose to surround the casket or the urn with things and objects that he or she loved in life.

A MUSIC lover will surely want his funeral to look like this instead of the usual gaudy chandeliers.



A GARDEN lover who passed away will surely love to be surrounded by things he love, even during the funeral service.

The family of a grandmother who loved gardening, for instance, surrounded the urn with her ashes with trees, potted plants and even a little fountain to evoke the image of an English garden. Even the backdrop of the chapel featured hanging plants.

In another funeral, the guests were treated to the music loved by the deceased, played live no less by a string quartet.

The bereaved parents of a child who passed away, also chose to surround the room with balloons and ribbons with happy colors. They said that they preferred to send off their child with happy memories.

The Batesville Co., the leading manufacturer of bronze, copper, stainless steel and hardwood caskets in the United States that is represented locally by KKC Inc., recommends ways to celebrate the memories of a person who passed away.

Think of five words that describe the person. What relationships were important to him and who had the most influence on his life? What did he like to do and what things interested him? Now most importantly, how would he want to be remembered and what stories would he want passed on to future generations. What five objects can capture what he was about?

Putting these together in a funeral service is what families are busy doing in the US these days, and soon, more frequently in the Philippines.

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Davao	(082) 298-3560
Pampanga	(045) 625-5144 to 53
Batangas	(043) 722-1641 to 42

TAX-FILES

Which box will you choose?

By Maria Myla S. Maralit
SGV & Co.

IT IS almost Christmastime, and for most of us it is an excuse to spend our savings on a shopping spree, unmindful of its effect on the bottom line. But this is not so for businessmen and corporate financial officers who look ahead and predict the financial condition of the business at the end of the taxable year.

It is the time to think of the bottom line, cost savings and cash flows.

Related to these financial concerns is the corporation's management of its excess income tax payments, those arising from quarterly payments of income tax based on income for the quarter, as well as excess creditable withholding taxes.

Is it more advisable to carry it over to the succeeding taxable year than claim a refund from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR)?

Prior to the passage of Republic Act (RA) No. 8424, otherwise known as the Tax Reform Act of 1997, if the sum of the corporation's quarterly tax payments is not equal to the total income tax due for the year, it shall either:

(a) Pay the excess tax still due; or

(b) Be refunded the excess amount paid, as the case may be.

In case the corporation is entitled to a refund of the excess quarterly income taxes paid, the refundable amount may be applied and credited against the quarterly income tax liabilities the following year. (Section 69, National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of 1977)

The Supreme Court in Philippine Bank of Communications vs. Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Court of Tax Appeals and Court of Appeals (G.R. No. 112024, Jan. 28, 1999) enunciated that under said Section 69, any excess of the total quarterly payments over the actual income tax shown in the corporate annual income tax return, shall either be refunded to the corporation, or may be credited against the quarterly income tax liabilities for the quarters of the succeeding taxable year.

It further held that the corporation must signify in its annual corporate income tax return (by marking the option box provided in the BIR form) its intention, whether to request for a refund or claim for an automatic tax credit for the succeeding taxable year.

To ease the administration of tax collection, these remedies are in the alternative, and the choice of one precludes the other.

Clearly, in case of a tax overpayment shown in the final adjustment return, the old tax law under Section 69 gives the taxpayer the option to ask for a refund or to have the overpayment credited against the estimated quarterly tax liability for the succeeding year.

Thus, if the latter option is taken and the refundable amount was not fully credited in the succeeding year, the excess uncredited amount can no longer be credited in the following year because the law limits the automatic tax credit to the succeeding year only.

On the other hand, the amendment introduced by Section 76 of the Tax Reform Act of 1997, which took effect on Jan. 1, 1998, provides that if the sum of the quarterly tax payments made in a taxable year is not equal to the total tax due on the entire taxable income of that year, the corporation shall either:

(a) Pay the balance of tax still due; or

(b) Carry-over the excess credit; or

(c) Be credited or refunded with the excess amount paid, as the case may be.

It further provides that in case the corporation is entitled to a tax credit or refund of the excess estimated quarterly income taxes paid, the excess amount may be carried over and credited against the estimated quarterly income tax liabilities for the taxable quarters of the succeeding taxable years.

However, once the option to carry over and apply the excess quarterly income tax against income tax due for the taxable quarters of the succeeding taxable years has been made, it is irrevocable for that taxable period and no application for cash refund or issuance of a tax credit certificate shall be allowed.

A comparison of the old and new provisions shows that the amendment brought about two significant rules:

1. The automatic tax credit option is no longer limited to the succeeding taxable year; Corporations are now given the option to carry over and apply the excess quarterly income tax payments against the income tax due for the taxable quarters of the succeeding taxable years; and

2. When the tax credit option is exercised, it shall be considered irrevocable and the corporation can no longer apply for a cash refund or issuance of a tax credit certificate.

In one case involving a refund of excess creditable withholding tax for taxable year 1998, the Court of Tax Appeals (CTA) dismissed the petition for review on the ground that the petitioner has already opted to carry over the excess to the succeeding year.

The facts of the case show that the petitioner marked "x" on the box corresponding to the phrase "To be carried as tax credit next year" in its 1998 corporate annual income tax return. Hence, in resolving the motion to dismiss filed by the commissioner of Internal Revenue, the CTA granted the motion relying on the provisions of Section 76 of the Tax Reform Act of 1997.

The resolution states that the provision of law is clear and leaves no room for doubt. It cannot be interpreted otherwise than that an option once exercised, the same shall be considered irrevocable.

Since the petitioner has already signified its intention to carry over its unused creditable taxes withheld for 1998 to the succeeding year, it is no longer allowed to pursue the claim for refund.

Thus, because of the amendment introduced by the Tax Reform Act of 1997, corporations should be more cautious in choosing which option to take: whether to check the box corresponding to the refund option or that corresponding to the carry-over to the succeeding years' option.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2001
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Rhett's the new fashion mover

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

AFTER WATCHING his collection under the label Wink last week, I am convinced that **Rhett Eala** could be the leader of his generation of young fashion designers. This is no gut-feel, but an informed projection of one who has seen the comings and goings of fashion talents in the country. Rhett has the sum of factors that takes one to fashion supremacy.

First, relatively less hyped than his publicity-starved peers, Rhett is well-loved by the many young women who can easily comprise his market. This became obvious in his Oct. 25 show at RCBC Plaza, which was packed with young women with the consciousness—and the budget—for style. That his show was produced by **Cindy Yang** and **Tara Santos**—women who obviously have the drawing power (particularly for the Chinese-Filipino chic set) and the drive—was certainly a plus. This crowd easily translates into a lucrative clientele. And you could see they were there not only to look over the collection but also to give Rhett a palpable moral support. Rhett is loved perhaps because this mild-mannered designer has yet to backbite anyone, and in the Manila fashion scene finding a designer with no ax to grind is like looking for a needle in the haystack. In short, Rhett has genuine popular support again perhaps because he seems genuine.

Second, he has spent good enough time in the salt mines. As designer for Rustan's for 11 years, he's worked the backroom where he learned the ropes of RTW. Until last year, he seemed content with near-anonymity designing Due, a label that didn't bear his name, and even styling the work of his peers. While others would have devoted those years building an ego, Rhett used them to build his craft instead. Now that experience showed in the neat finish and construction of his Wink collection.

Third, very important, he has talent—strong enough to launch a collection.

Fourth, most important, he practices restraint and discernment in editing the look of a collection. This explained the cohesiveness of his 90-piece collection. There were no stray clothes in that parade. He had the discipline enough not to show off; in that way did he not overload nor confuse his audience.

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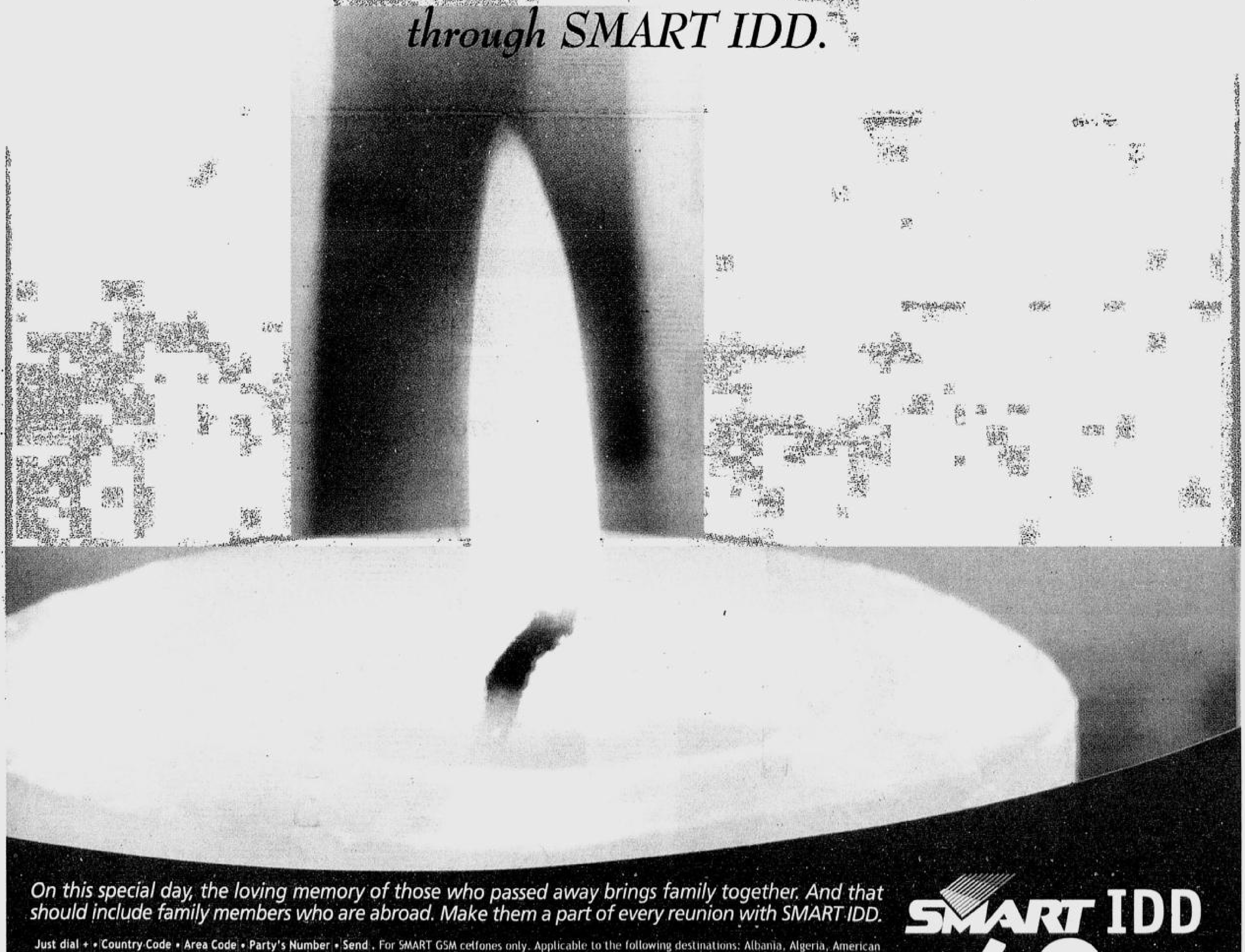

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Shoppers get six superb Saturday bazaars

JASPER'S mom celebrates 20 years of great shopping with Christmas Gallery 1 and 2 on Nov. 3 and 10 the Makati Sports Club; X'mas Factory I and II on Nov. 17 and 24; and FOB Manila 2 on Dec. 1. The series of bazaars was preceded by FOB Manila 1 held on Oct. 27.

Menchie Mabanta, now better known as the mom of the irrepressible Jasper (a.k.a. Franco Cruz Mabanta) in the Coca-Cola commercials, said to make this year's events more special, a season pass for the six events would only cost P180. Each event ticket costs P60.

MENCHIE Mabanta and son Franco

Shoppers who go to all "Six Superb Shopping Saturdays" will qualify for the grand raffle draw and have a chance to win prizes like trips to Hong Kong and Boracay and appliances and electronics items. Season passes are available at Ritz Towers, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, tel. 813-5675 (Yvette or Jenny) and 15 Duhat St., Valle Verde 1 (Menchie or Marge). Major sponsor of this year's bazaars is Casino Filipino.

Call 671-2493/2497, (0917) 526-4812. Visit www. pinoycentral.com (Buyer's Guide and Food sections).

Deadline for 'May K' photo contest set

GOINGS-ON

THE DEADLINE for the submission of entries to the 5th National Photo Contest on Disability is Nov. 9. Entries must document and depict a whole day's activities of a person with disability (PWD). To emphasize the concerns of PWDs, photos may also depict different issues such as accessibility, integration and equalization of opportunities for the disabled.

The photo essay competition, dubbed "Isang Araw sa Buhay ng May K (Kapansanan)," requires a minimum of five and a maximum of eight prints from each contestant. Top 20 entries and other selected photos will be featured in a special exhibit on Dec. 3 during the International Day of Disabled Persons. Entries must be submitted to the Contest Secretariat: National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons, 2/F SRA Annex Building, North Avenue, Diliman, QC. Call 926-1165, 927-5916, 920-1503 or 929-8827.

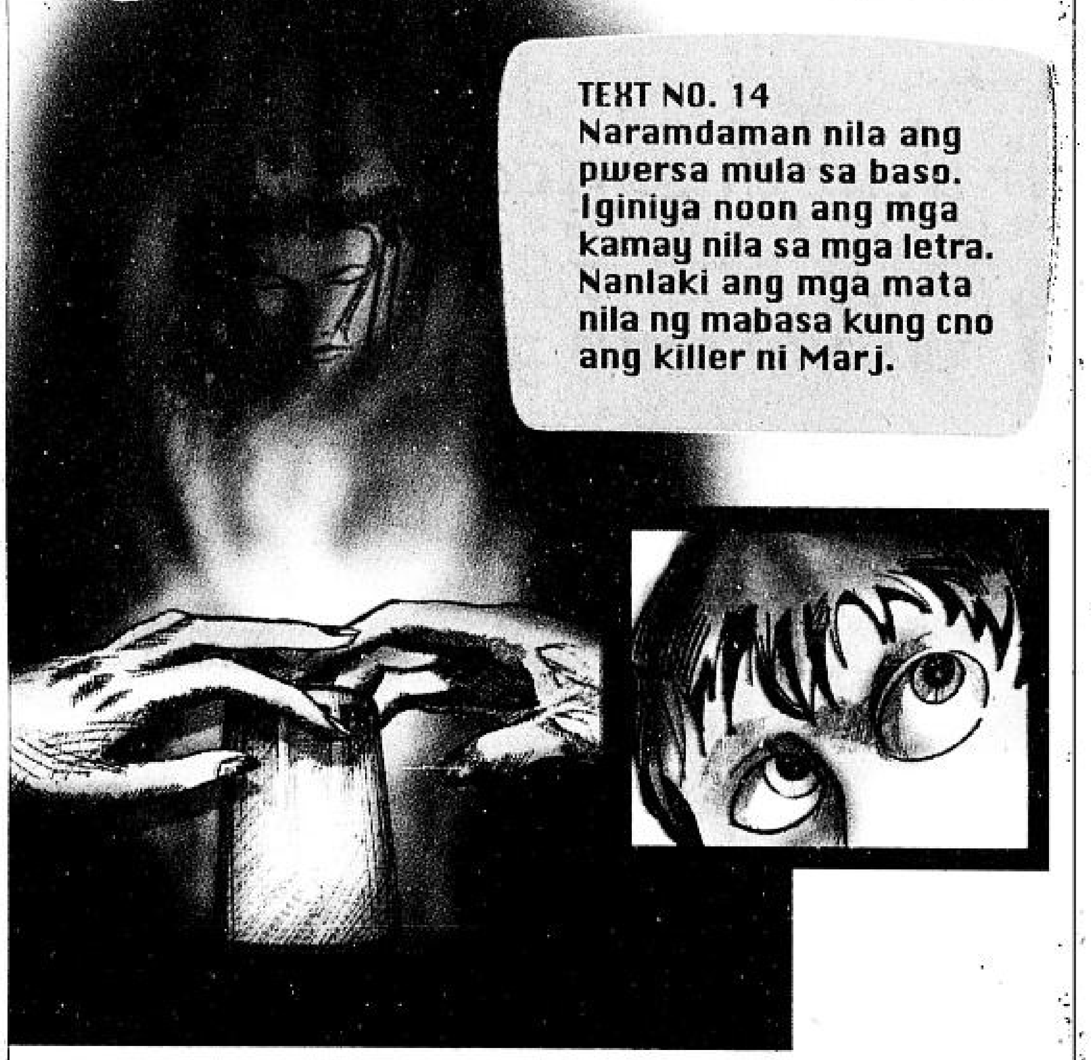
BAZAAR. The much-awaited International Bazaar 2001 is set for 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Nov. 10, at the World Trade Center on Roxas Boulevard, Manila. The one-day bazaar features 50 local entrepreneurs who sell export-quality products. Proceeds will go to the IBF's various projects, like scholarships, medical supplies and equipment for overcrowded and under-equipped government hospitals. Call 833-1320.

PHOTO COURSE. The final basic photo course, organized by the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation Inc. for this year, will be held Nov. 4 at the Yslas Restaurante, Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila. FPPFI holds office at the Comfoods Building, Buendia corner Pasong Tamo, Makati City. Call 843-5341 or 813-7420.

RAFFLE WINNERS. The winners of the Oct. 13 draw of the A.M. Metrostars Party Sales Inc. were announced recently. First prize—14" color TV, Maritess Pablo; second prize—Nokia 3310, Potenciana Oyales; third prize—turbo fan, Lalaine Brigildo; fourth prize—2-quart pressure cooker, Jovita Ignacio; fifth prize—quick chopper, Glo Ramos. Consolation prize winners were: Clarita Tan, small ice chest; Ariel Moncera, large ice chest; Filipina Gutierrez, picnic basket; Anaine Canilang, picnic basket; Marcelina Cueva, Pokemon bag; Besne Quinto, picnic mat; Cabesa Palomata, picnic mat; Lourdes Bondoc, Tiwi backbag; Bonny Garcia, Tiwi backbag, and Maritess Clemente, roll-away bin.

NEW TxTales from TALK 'N TEXT GSM

Trip mo ba ang horror stories?
Sali ka sa
Spirit of the Glass


TEXT NO. 14
Naramdaman nila ang pwersa mula sa baso. Iginiya noon ang mga kamay nila sa mga letra. Nanlaki ang mga mata nila ng mabasa kung cno ang killer ni Marj.

TEXT NO. 16
Parang trumpong mabilis na paikut-ikot ang baso sa mga letra ngunit bago pa nila nakuha ang pangalang nabuo noon, sumabog ang baso sa pagkasindak nila.

Sino ang espiritung sumapi sa baso?
Sino kaya ang killer ni Marj?

Gusto mong malaman ano'ng sunod na nangyari?
Just text NOVELA SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
Then send to 241!

Read about other TXTales from Talk 'N Text!
Ang Sumpa ni Matilda • Red Lady • Mandala Tribe • Manananggal

To get the available commands and keywords, type HELP, then send to 241.

Download requests will be charged as follows: help and other regular commands – ₱2.50; ringtones and picture messages – ₱12.00

Ringtones and Picture Messages can only be downloaded and previewed using selected handsets

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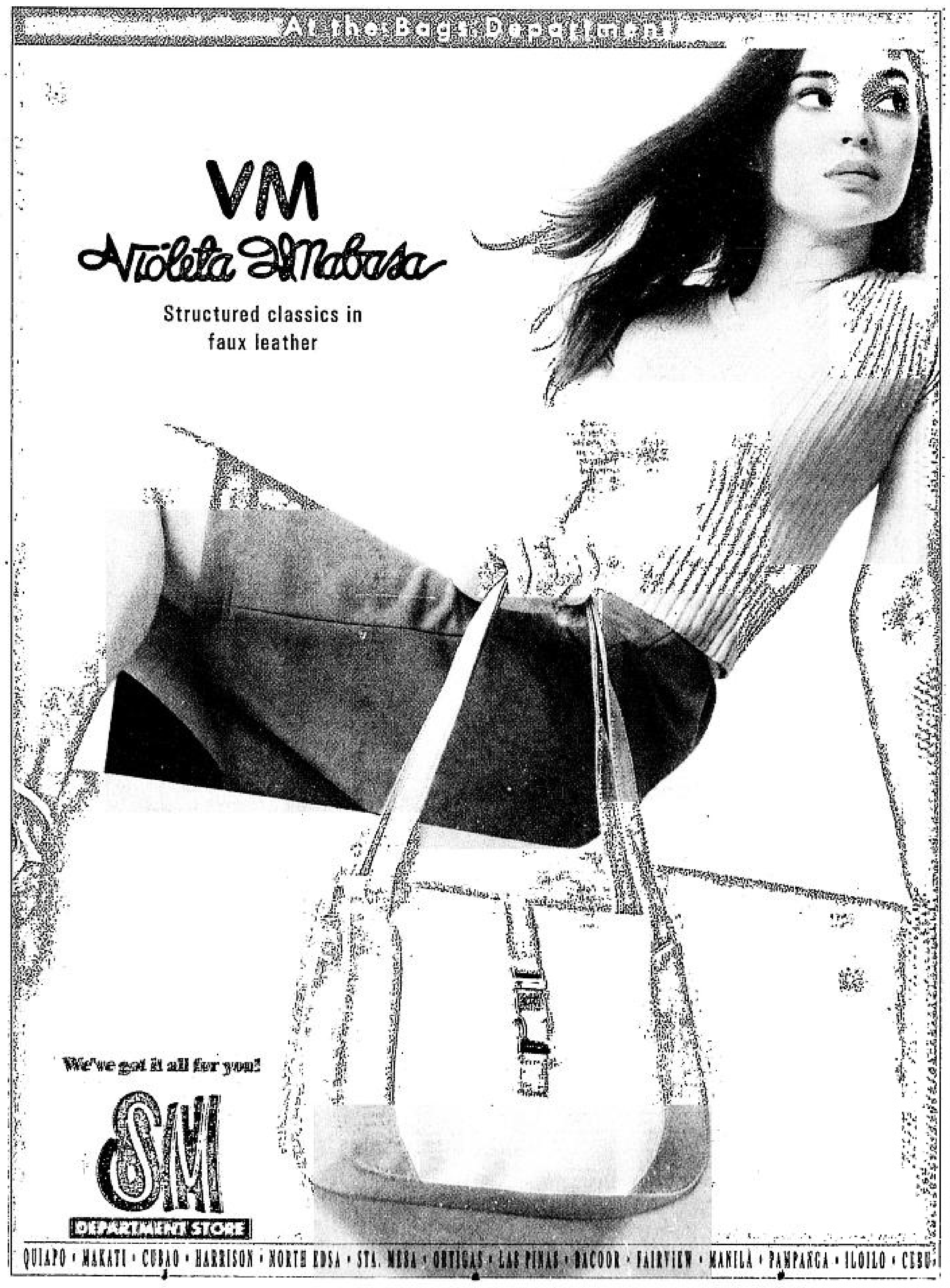
At the Bags Department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Rhett's the new fashion mover

(From page C1)

He stuck to his line and vision, and perfected it—through good choice of silhouettes, fabrics, accents and color. This explained why every piece of the collection was a casual or evening dress a woman could wear. He didn't design for his ego, he designed for women. That's a primary hurdle for any young designer.

His clothes were very simple yet highly polished in their execution. His openers were separates broken down into lean pants—denims at the start or Thai silks, with Swarovski glitter down the sides as accent—and corsets or tank tops underneath flowing chiffon blouses that slide on one shoulder. It's the soft seductive look of **Sarah Jessica Parker's** Carrie on "Sex & the City."

He balanced them with off-shoulder diaphanous blouses trimmed with ruffles. He had many chiffon glam dresses with spaghetti straps, if not snug, at least lean and light, accented at the hem with ruffles. He sashed these after-six dresses with tan leather obis.

The obis and the corsets repeated themselves throughout the collection.

His fabrics were limited to chiffons, tulles, Thai silks, a few linens. His colors were very basic—shades of white, a predominance of periwinkle blue, a play of black and white, and a few bursts of color, particularly orange or fuchsia.

After he drove home his statement of denims, chiffons and linens for day, he went on to the real smash of the collection—his evening wear. His evening dresses and gowns were, to me, sheer ingenuity and should be a real hit among young women who have the good flesh to show off. They were so flattering to the figure, without being overtly seductive.

His placement of matte sequins was most strategic. Against his off-white chiffons, he laid them out in a soft burst on the waist down to the upper thighs, below which he left the transparency of chiffon or tulle to take its alluring course, leaving half of the thighs in a see-through—seduction at its most feminine subtlety. And the hem that skimmed the knees was not sewn, but cut roughly as if by scissors. This rawness was a good contrast to the neat simple finish. Now that was very crafty of the designer.

JOAN Bitagcol wears this artsy dress, painted by Eala's mother, Baby Valencia, and beaded by his workers.

Elegant minimalism

On some white evening shifts with spaghetti straps, he had slashes, just slashes, of black beadwork—a "painting" done by his mom. It was elegant minimalism.

In some numbers, he used the book-leaf effect on the skirt or as trimming on the hem—swaths of fabric sewn beside each other that rippled like a wave as the wearer moved. To the stark straight silhouette, this gave the illusion of movement.

In other evening numbers, he used lace on the waist, its color a monochrome to the dress, and traced this lace with subtle glitter. The spare use of rich lace and glitter must certainly appeal to the young women who eschew anything rich and opulent their mothers wear.

Rhett was smart in that while he stuck to classic silhouettes—the shifts or obi-waisted dresses—he balanced this simplicity with ingenious elegant accents. His intelligent placement of accents brought excitement to the clothes. Done by a less smart designer, simple silhouettes could have been redundant and boring.

And—what was noteworthy about the collection was that the clothes all had a good fit and very clean finish. To me, that's a strong sign that the designer has a healthy respect for the woman who'll wear his design. Rhett resisted the temptation of forcing his women's bodies into complicated structures or silhouettes knocked off from the **Gallianos** or **Alexander McQueens** of the fashion world. That's what I mean when I said he was no show-off. To me, that's maturity for a designer. The hand of restraint showing through.

We learned that many of the clothes had been bought after the collection. Rhett, with Cindy, is also opening a store at Rockwell aside from Glorietta.

That's another factor going for Rhett—he knows how to serve his market while serving his fashion statement.

If he keeps at it, Rhett Eala should be the designer to watch next year. It's fame long overdue.

It's the liposuction, stupid

If you want a good laugh, see "Legally Blonde," where **Reese Witherspoon's** character is such a hilarious but very accurate parody of the frill and froth of lifestyle against the scholarly seriousness of Harvard law. Guess what carries the day through?

These Harvard interns were trying to crack a murder case of a multimillionaire, where the prime suspect is his young second wife, a fitness icon. Pressed for an alibi at the time of the murder, the fitness icon would rather go to jail than admit where she really was. She was having her liposuction, that's why.

That scene had a ring of truth to it—right in our backyard. I suddenly played a parade on my mind of the many fortysomething women whose weight loss and newly sculpted figure leave me curious at lunch. And you know how with Pinays, the classic ice-breaker is always—You've lost a lot of weight, or anything relating to one's figure. The line is always better than a simple hello.

Then after hello, you ask, how on earth could she have lost so much weight and have the hips and waist of a teen babe. Not even if she went on a dextrose diet. So many middle-aged or post-midaged matrons these days are sporting well-sculpted figures and highly defined

RHETT'S/ P.C4

VICTORY for Rhett Eala at RCBC Plaza

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

SARAH Meier wears this double-layered silk chiffon sheath with flounces.

THE JACKIE O look in Thai silk is a continuation from Eala's previous collection

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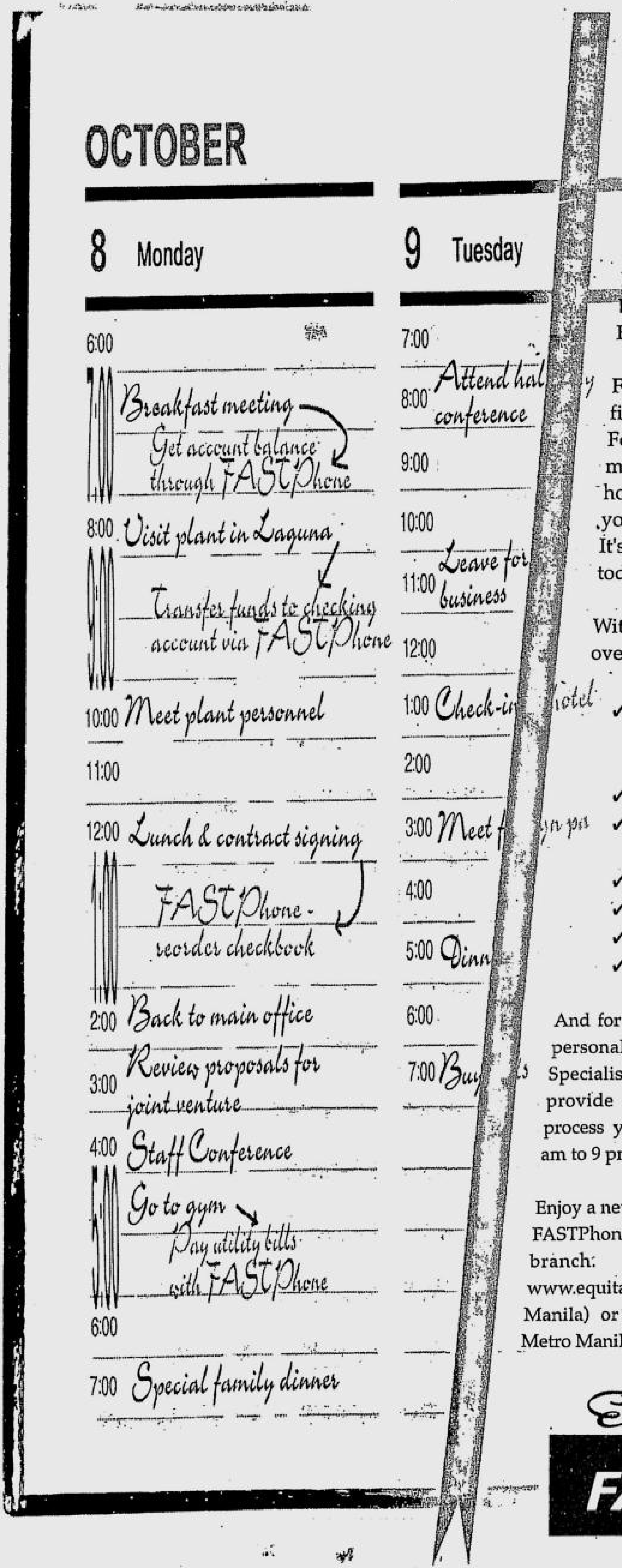
OCTOBER
8 Monday
6:00
7:00 Breakfast meeting
Get account balance through FASTPhone
8:00 Visit plant in Laguna
9:00 Transfer funds to checking account via FASTPhone
10:00 Meet plant personnel
11:00
12:00 Lunch & contract signing
1:00 FASTPhone - reorder checkbook
2:00 Back to main office
3:00 Review proposals for joint venture
4:00 Staff Conference
5:00 Go to gym
Pay utility bills with FASTPhone
6:00
7:00 Special family dinner
9 Tuesday
7:00
8:00 Attend hal conference
9:00
10:00
11:00 Leave fo business
12:00
1:00 Check-i hotel
2:00
3:00 Meet f gn pa
4:00
5:00 Dinn
6:00
7:00 Buy

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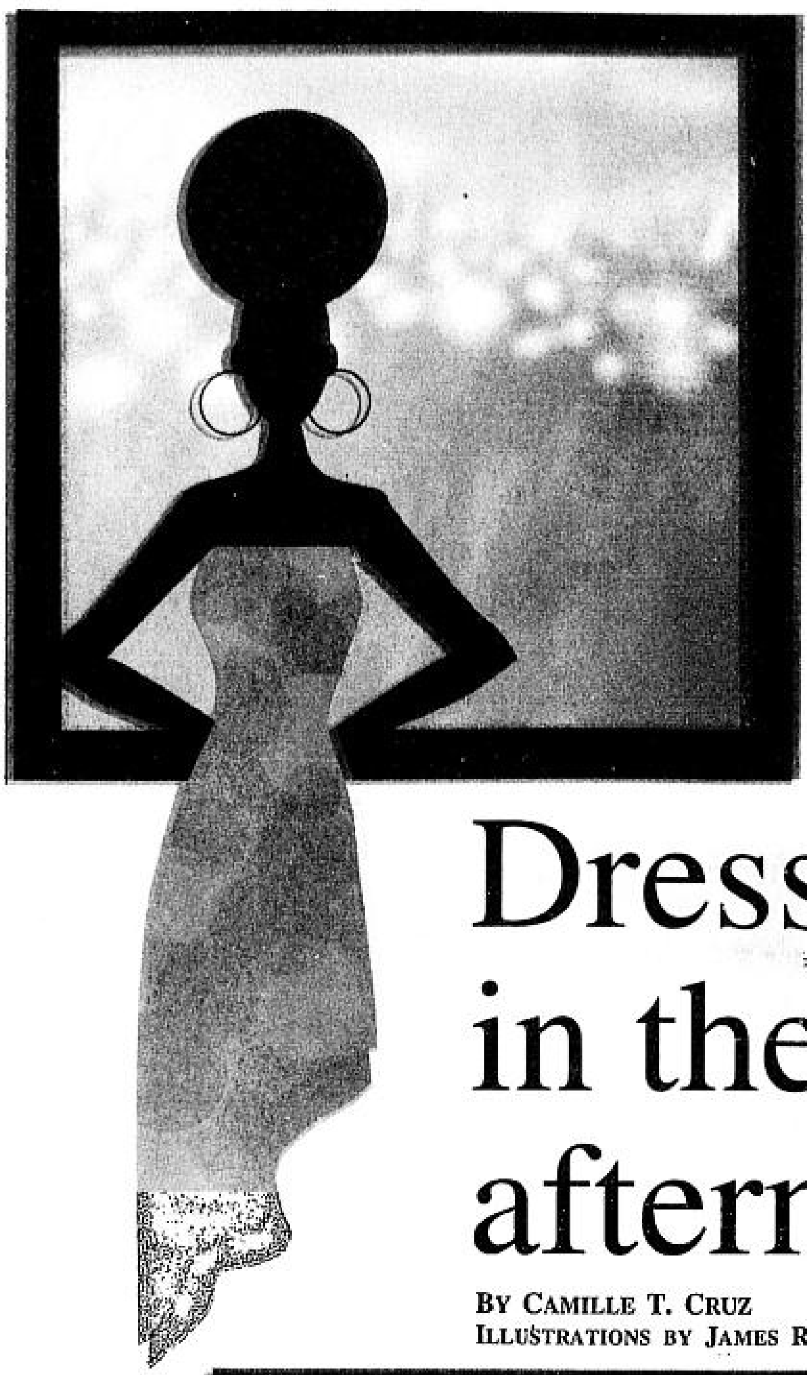
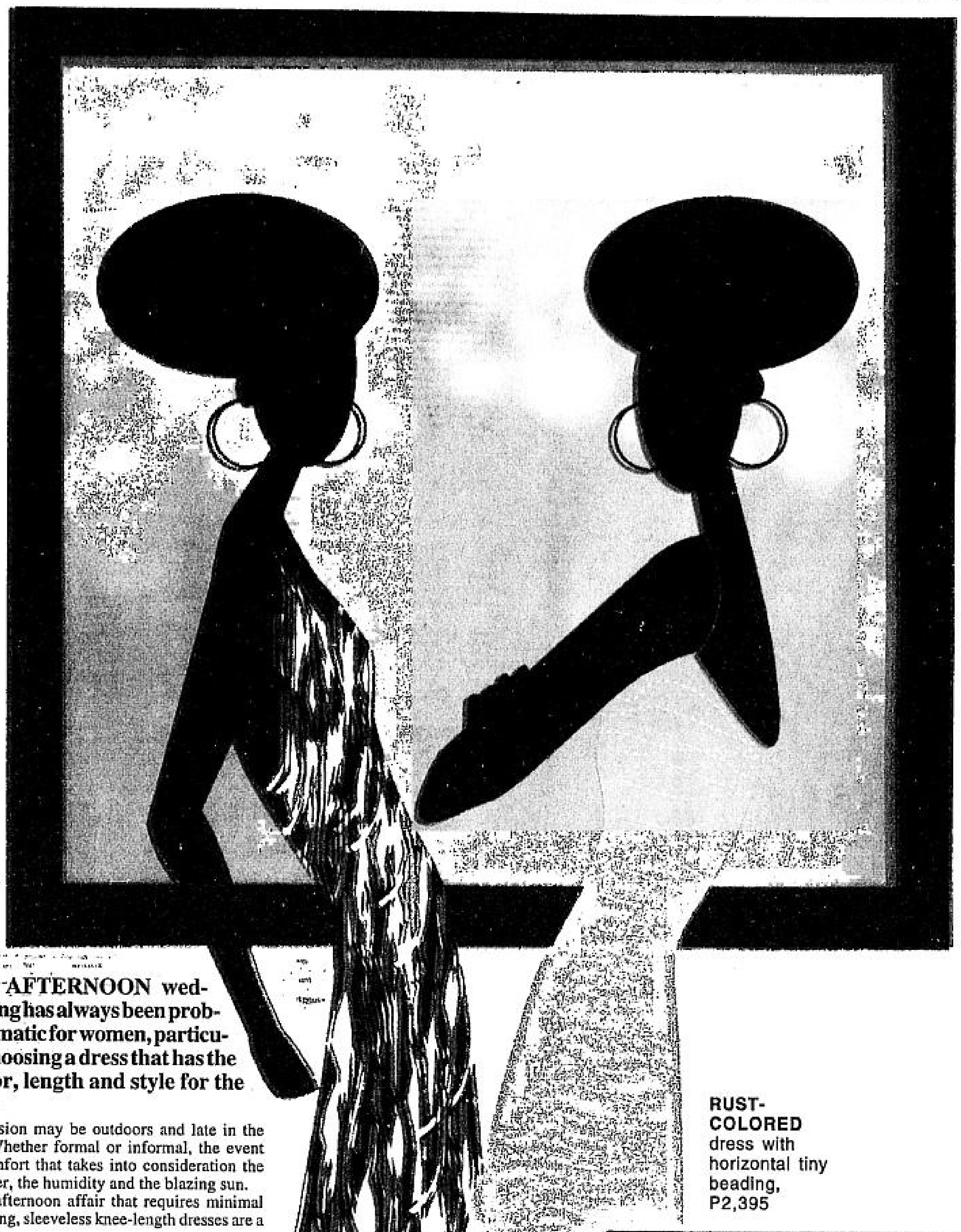


BERRY-COLORED circular bold printed dress with asymmetrical hemline, P1,695

You can't go wrong with short and simple ensembles

Dress in the afternoon

BY CAMILLE T. CRUZ
ILLUSTRATIONS BY JAMES REYES



AN AFTERNOON wedding has always been problematic for women, particularly in choosing a dress that has the right color, length and style for the occasion.

The occasion may be outdoors and late in the afternoon. Whether formal or informal, the event calls for comfort that takes into consideration the warm weather, the humidity and the blazing sun.

For any afternoon affair that requires minimal formal dressing, sleeveless knee-length dresses are a wise choice.

A pattern or print adds interest to the piece. A little beading or sequin, an asymmetrical hemline, and a black and white zigzag pattern can enliven a dress.

With a short dress, many looks can be achieved depending on the style or print. You may choose a simple rust-colored sheer dress with minimal beading for a conservative and safe look. For an eye-catching style with a twist, go for bolder wine colors with a touch of asymmetry or irregularity such as a different hemline or neckline. For a semi-bohemian but modern look, try a little bit of texture against a wavy print. And for those who love the classic and sexy carefree look, a black and white animal-printed dress is suggested.

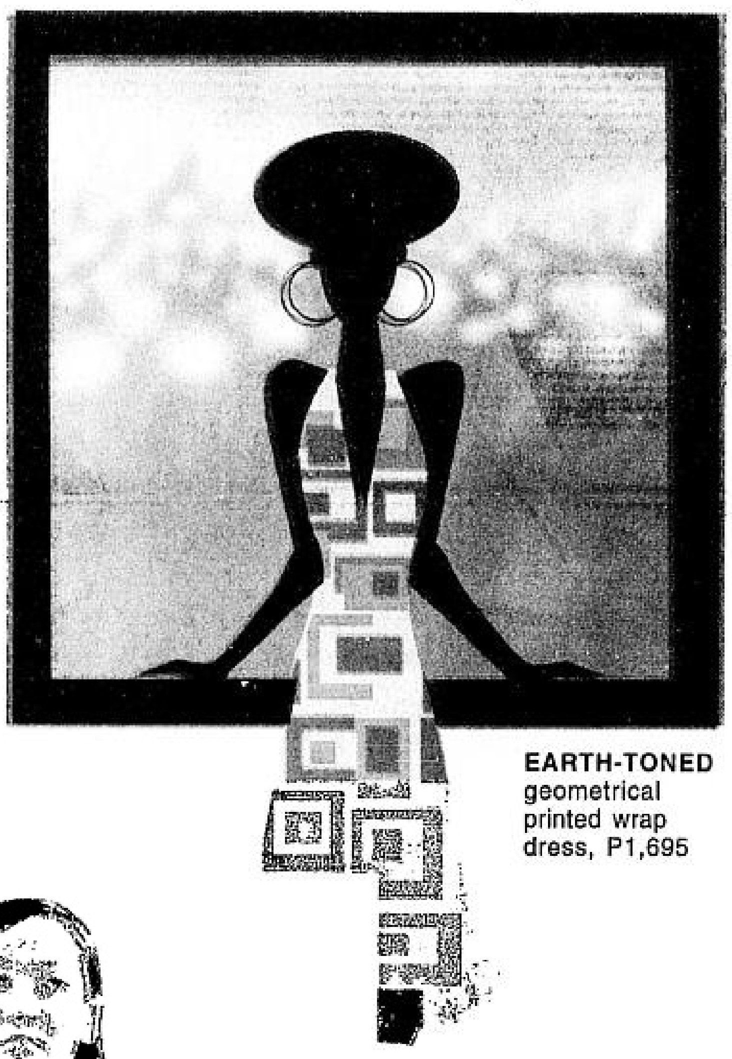
Dressing for an outdoor occasion in the afternoon is not difficult. Just make it short and simple and you'll get the basics done.

E-mail the author at camille_cruz@hotmail.com

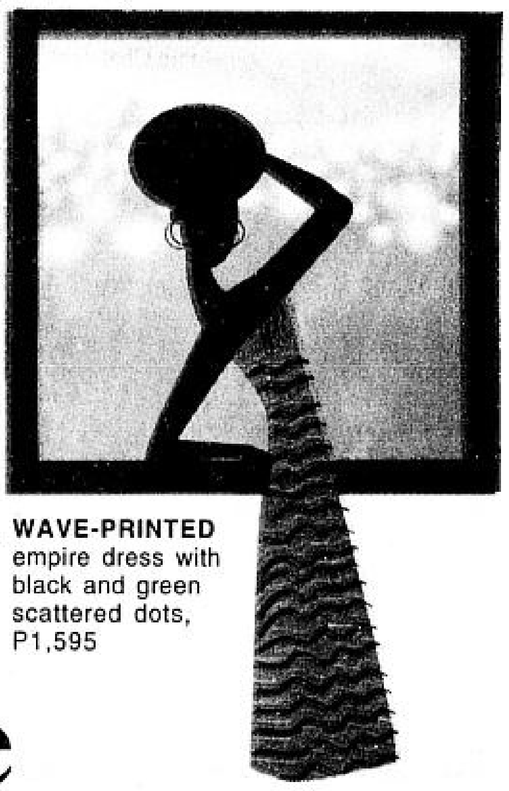
All items from X, G/F Glorietta II, Ayala Center, Makati

RUST-COLORED dress with horizontal tiny beading, P2,395

BLACK and white printed empire dress, P1,595



EARTH-TONED geometrical printed wrap dress, P1,695



WAVE-PRINTED empire dress with black and green scattered dots, P1,595

Rhett's the new fashion move

He didn't design for his ego, he designed for women

(From page C3)

arms. Diet? They claim so—from Cabbage Soup to Fit for Life. No way, that's against gravity.

But after "Legally Blonde," I should just say, it's the liposuction, stupid.

Keep still

Hong Kong seems back again on the holiday destination list of Pinoys, along with Baguio, Tagaytay or Subic. That's obvious during this long weekend. Unlike Bangkok which offers bargains, Hong Kong, in the Pinoy psyche, is actually an old habit reborn.

However, to people like us who are frenetically on the move every corporate day of the week, the best holiday weekend is—keeping still. Staying put.

Break from anthrax

The Americans have their anthrax, we have our kidnapping. In a planet of paranoia, we all deserve a bit of good music. Accidentally we had ours when **Louie Cruz** hosted an impromptu dinner and invited his old friend from Ateneo, **Chris Medina**, a versatile and engaging pianist and singer. Shortly after graduating, Chris did the world—he lived and played in Canada, the US, and on the cruise liners. From jazz to standards to ballads, name it he can play it and stylize it and jam it.

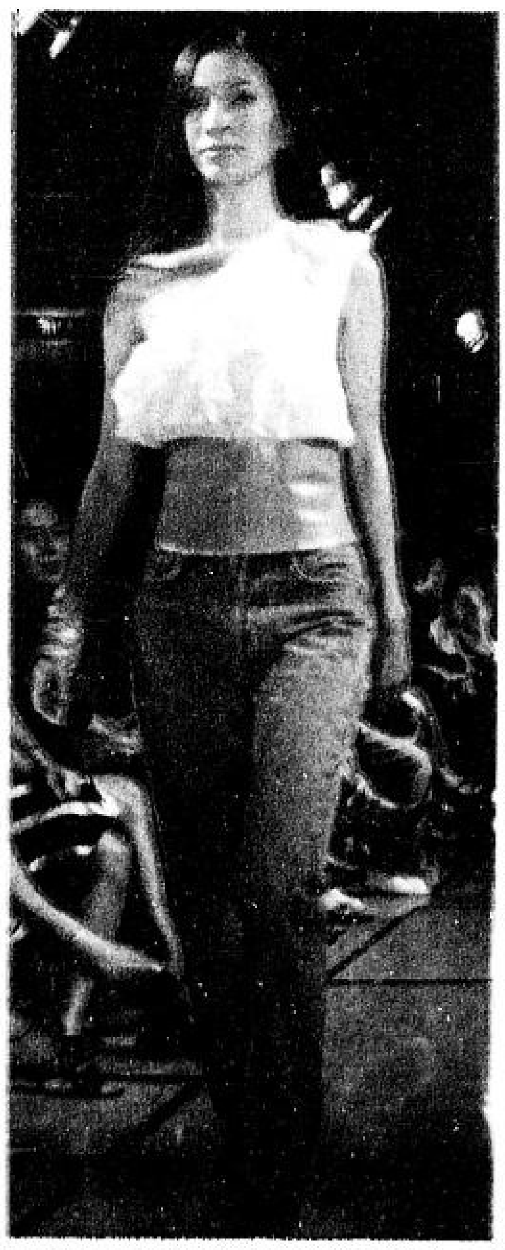
Upon somebody's request, we began the late night with "As Time Goes By" and greeted the predawn with a rousing "New York, New York."

He's someone to hear and watch. He's on at 5060 Café Bar at 5060 Filmore, Makati, on Nov. 3, and on Nov. 9 at Monk's Dream in Jupiter, Makati.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net

RHETT'S classic Mao-collared shirt and drawstring pants in linen.

WILMA Doesnt wears this silk chiffon poncho with Swarovski crystals and Thai silk pants



SILK georgette asymmetrical blouse and vintage jeans with Swarovski crystals, accessorized by a corset.

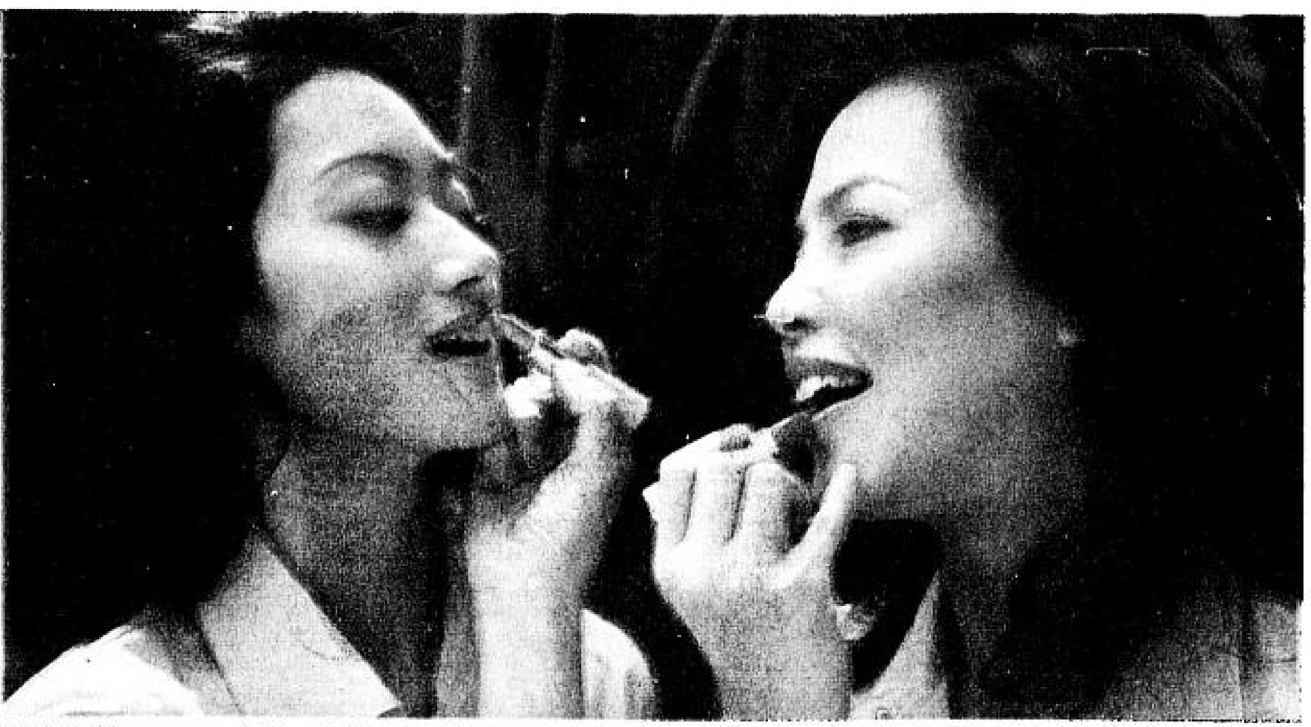
NAFSIKA models this Thai silk strapless top and tulle skirt with rows of matte gold sequins.

Shimmering colors for luscious lips

L'OREAL'S Shine Delicieux features lip colors with Vitamin C for deliciously shiny lips. The products contain a finesse wax that brings out the fullness of one's lips as it gently coats them; an ultra-gloss complex created by the combination of a filmogenic polymer and a high-gloss oil to make your lips smoother; and light oils for easy, nongreasy and nonsticky application.

To maximize the sheer gloss delivered by its texture, the formula also contains ultra-fine mother-of-pearl that releases a subtle, blue-tinted color that shimmers like water.

The fruity shades are packed with red, pink, orange and yellow pigments for strong, bright color. The muted flesh-colored hues give less cover, but are packed with mother-of-pearl, to emphasize its effect on the lips and maximize their shine, volume and fullness.



ERICA Marquez and Ning Cojuangco-Yulo enjoy the playful colors of Shine Delicieux.

PHOTO BY WAHOO GUERRERO. HAIR AND MAKEUP BY DANNY KATALBAS AND LOURD RYAN RAMOS OF EMPHASIS. CLOTHES BY KAMISETA.

Talking heads

SCHWARZKOPF introduces "Essential Looks." Pooling the talents of the world's hair experts, the German-based hair-care manufacturer has created a myriad of styles from spiked-up bobs to hard-edged cuts.

Contrasting lengths, textures, dappled copper tones and rich warm undercurrents make for an interesting mix in the "Rustic Couture." Using Schwarzkopf's Igora Personality, Igora Vario Blond Royal, this hairdo can go from classic to wild.

Sophisticated chic with clean, cropped and pale-faced elegance is the statement of the '40s Patronage. The perfect finish is achieved by applying Osis Hair body spray before blow-drying.

The Beyond the '80s Look provides the classic bob with contrasts in length and texture. For a classic finish, apply a regular mousse like the Osis Grip and spike it up with Osis Stick Up and Shape Up products.

The curly mane makes a comeback in the Romantic Vintage. The vogue hairstyle in catwalks, this look is defined by shiny curls achieved by using an extra-hold mouse such as Osis Grip and a curl-enhancing finishing product like Apres Styling under Schwarzkopf's perming line.

Hard-edged glamour meets sensuality in the Provocateur look. Dry the hair to a tight, glossy finish by using Osis Hairbody Magic.

Schwarzkopf products are distributed by Top Style Marketing Inc. at Eisenhower Condominium, Eisenhower Street, Greenhills.

Things can only get rosy for French beauty house

Since it started, L'Oreal Philippines has grown 15-fold. This year alone, sales have grown 77 percent. Beauty, it appears, is diffusive

MY first encounter with L'Oreal products happened 10 years ago when Alain Chancerelle was setting up business in the Philippines. At the time, the company started out with hair-care lines for the beauty salon and retail markets. Years later, as L'Oreal was introducing one of its makeup lines, he declared that every Filipina should have a Maybelline product.

Since then L'Oreal Philippines has become a subsidiary and the business has grown "15-fold," according to its country manager, Paul Henri Duillet.

At an early Christmas party for the press held last week at the Peninsula Manila, Duillet announced that sales posted a 77-percent increase over last year. He attributed the phenomenal growth, despite an unstable political and economic situation, to a solid and bullish sales team.

"Anybody in L'Oreal Philippines is in the go-go mode," said Duillet.

The company has 10 signatures in its brand portfolio. It held many special events that sent the message that consumers were getting their value for money.

"When times get tough, these launches make a difference," he said.

The products target the different markets. Its strategy of defining the needs of their target markets and addressing them has made L'Oreal a market leader.

For the 17-24 age group, Ralph fragrance has been a huge success. Out of 18 counters, it's No. 1 in sales. It's No. 2 in others.

For the young professionals, Maybelline lipsticks such as the Water Shine have been a hit. The formulation was made in Japan.

For women over 30, L'Oreal's Plenitude, particularly the White Perfect, has been "selling like hotcakes," as the sales staff put it. L'Oreal's skin-care line brings to the market luxury products at an affordable price as compared with its counterparts in the selective market distribution.

"Filipinas have understood Plenitude's potential," said Duillet.

For the high-end market, Lancome was relaunched. Its counter at Rustan's flagship store was the first in Asia to sport the new look. The counter offers makeovers and demonstrations on how to use the product.

The rise of luxury salons augurs well for Kerastase hair-care line. Sales grew by 40 percent as more customers are pampering themselves with conditioning treatments for the hair.

Although the Studio line, the retail brand, did not get as much media support compared with the other brands, sales grew by a surprising 25 percent.

"We are thinking of a strategy. Styling is making a comeback," said Duillet. He predicts that the styling products will be the next big thing in this brand.

Plans are afoot to strengthen its signature brands, particularly catering to the younger segment. The company will be more aggressive in the hair-coloring market, bringing in the latest trends. There will be more major perfume launches and a new range of skin-care by Plenitude designed for the Asian skin. In makeup, Maybelline and L'Oreal will come up with more glittery products.

"We're not that big yet in the Philippines. Our interest is to become a market leader in five years," said Duillet.

There are studies for the addition of two more signatures. "I still have a lot of work," Duillet said.

Marge C. Enriquez.

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Week 3 Winner	P 50,000.00	Belinda Acasio
1st Monthly Draw Winner	P 125,000.00	Edwin Remoto
Week 4 Winner	P 75,000.00	Noel de Leon
Week 5 Winner	P 75,000.00	Glorabel Imperial
Week 6 Winner	P 75,000.00	Earl Richardson Chua
2nd Monthly Draw Winner	P 200,000.00	Lailani Tejada
Week 7 Winner	P 100,000.00	Shirly Tagaro

How to register:

QUIZ JOIN Sharon Sarinas/ 108 Herrera St. Legaspi Village Makati City
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Key in QUIZ<space>JOIN<space>name</>address>
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You will then receive this message

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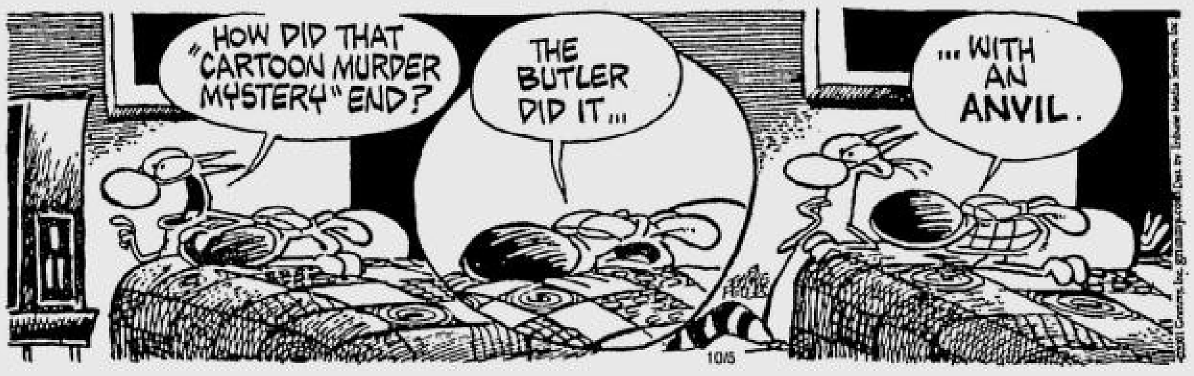
To get a list of keywords for other SMART zed services, just type in KEYS and send to 288

This promo is available to subscribers of
SMART GOLD Buddy Infinity

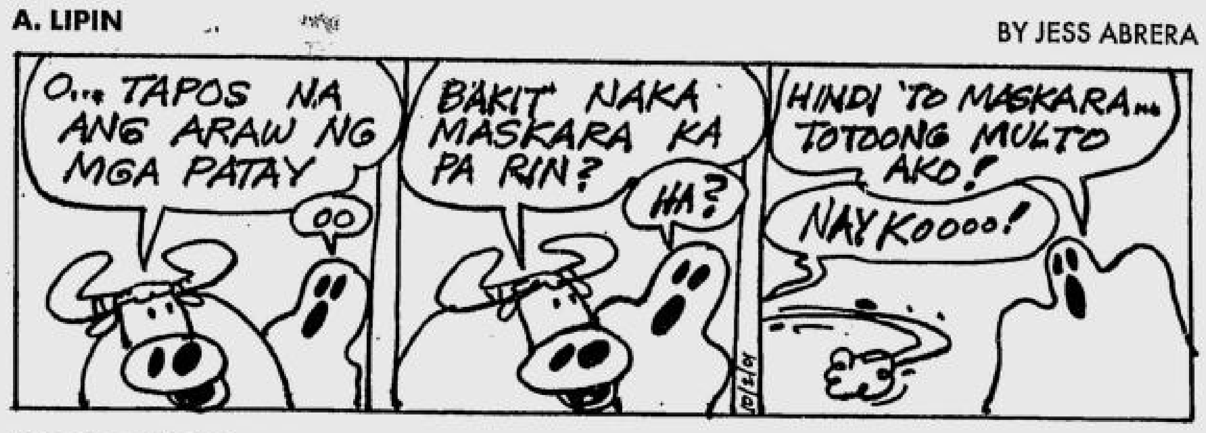
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


"HOW DID THAT "CARTOON MURDER MYSTERY" END?
THE BUTLER DID IT...
... WITH AN ANVIL.
10/5

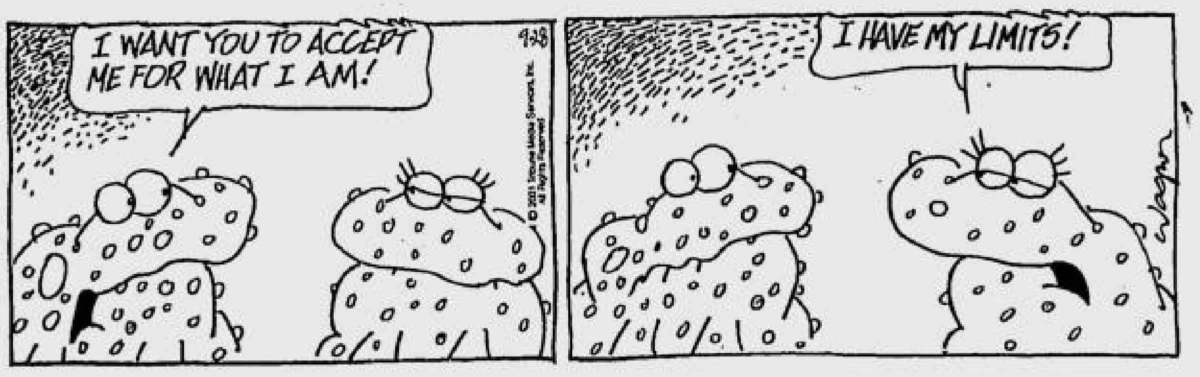
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


O... TAPOS NA ANG ARAW NG MGA PATAY
OO
BAKIT NAKA MASKARA KA PA RIN?
HA?
HINDI 'TO MASKARA... TOTOONG MULTO AKO!
NAYKOOOO!

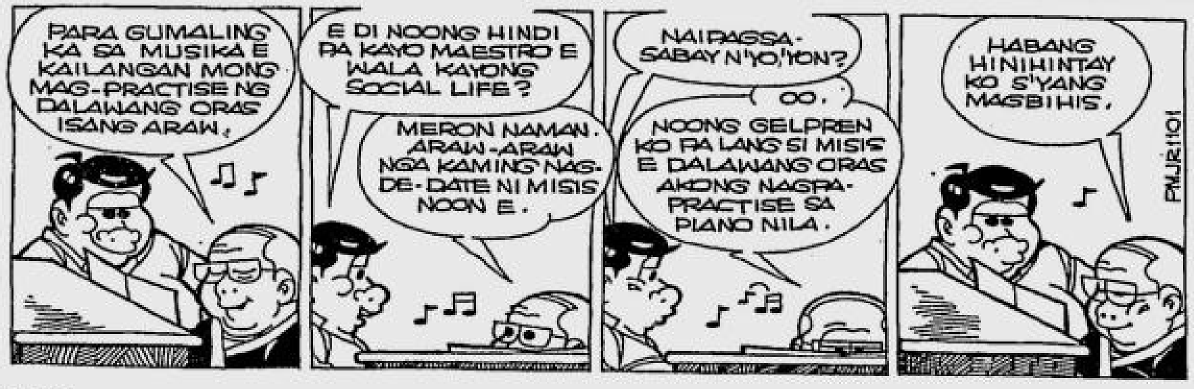
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


I WANT YOU TO ACCEPT ME FOR WHAT I AM!
9-28
I HAVE MY LIMITS!
WAGNER

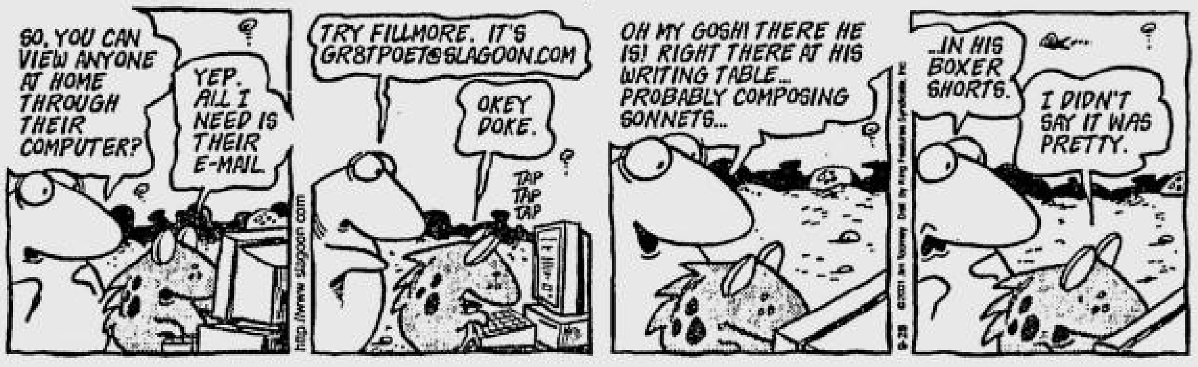
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


PARA GUMALING KA SA MUSIKA E KAILANGAN MONG MAG-PRACTISE NG DALAWANG ORAS ISANG ARAW.
E DI NOONG HINDI PA KAYO MAESTRO E WALA KAYONG SOCIAL LIFE?
MERON NAMAN. ARAW-ARAW NGA KAMING NAG-DE-DATE NI MISIS NOON E.
NAIPAGSA-SABAY N'YO, 'YON?
OO.
NOONG GELPREN KO PA LANG SI MISIS E DALAWANG ORAS AKONG NAGPA-PRACTISE SA PIANO NILA.
HABANG HINIHINTAY KO S'YANG MAGBIHIS.
PMJR11101

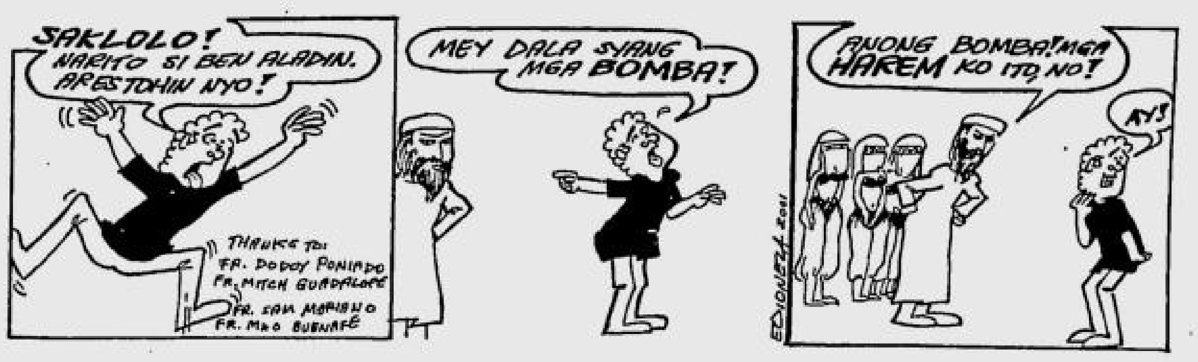
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


SO, YOU CAN VIEW ANYONE AT HOME THROUGH THEIR COMPUTER?
YEP. ALL I NEED IS THEIR E-MAIL.
TRY FILLMORE. IT'S GR8TPOET@SLAGOON.COM
OKEY DOKE.
TAP TAP TAP
http://www.slagoon.com
OH MY GOSH! THERE HE IS! RIGHT THERE AT HIS WRITING TABLE... PROBABLY COMPOSING SONNETS...
...IN HIS BOXER SHORTS.
I DIDN'T SAY IT WAS PRETTY.

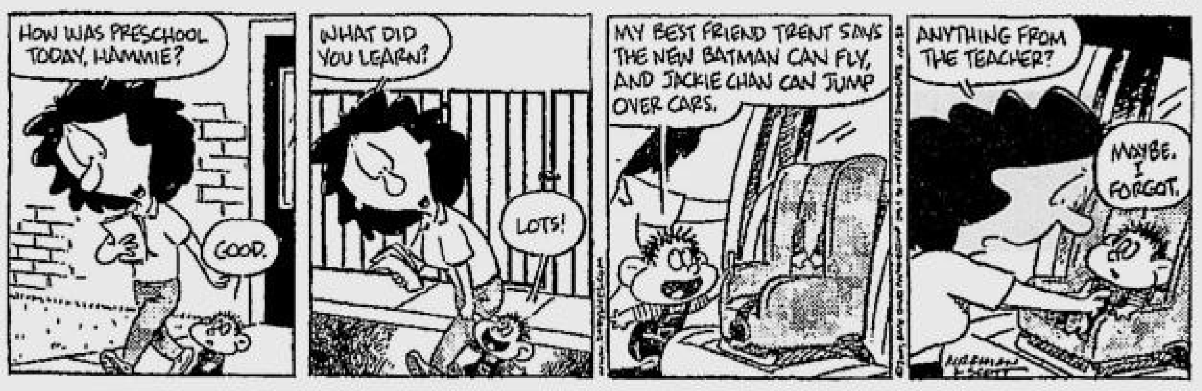
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


SAKLOLO! NARITO SI BEN ALADIN. ARESTOHIN NYO!
THANKS TO: FR. DODOY PONIADO FR. MITCH GUADALOPE FR. SAM MARIANO FR. MAO BUENAFE
MEY DALA SYANG MGA BOMBA!
ANONG BOMBA! MGA HAREM KO ITO NO!
AY!
EDIONELA 2001

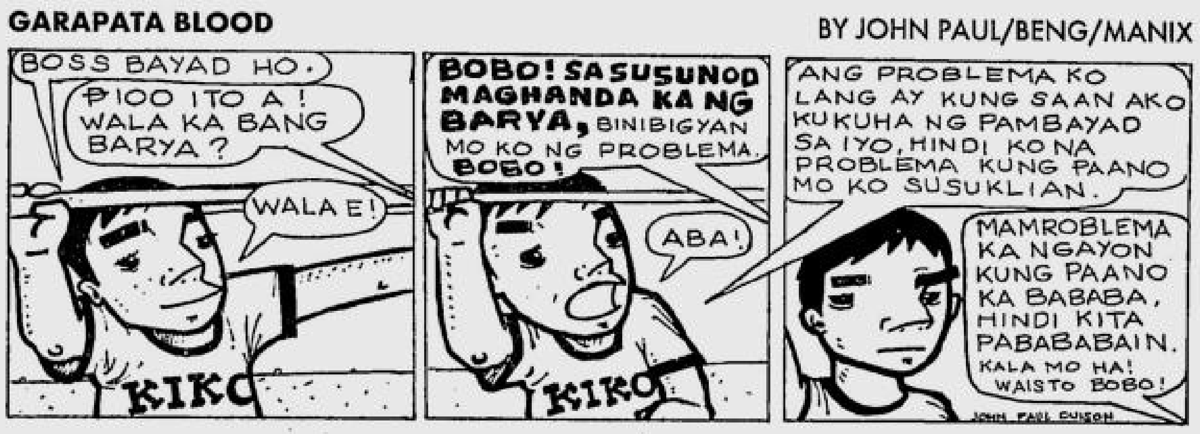
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HOW WAS PRESCHOOL TODAY, HAMMIE?
GOOD.
WHAT DID YOU LEARN?
LOTS!
MY BEST FRIEND TRENT SAYS THE NEW BATMAN CAN FLY, AND JACKIE CHAN CAN JUMP OVER CARS.
ANYTHING FROM THE TEACHER?
MAYBE. I FORGOT.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


BOSS BAYAD HO.
₱100 ITO A! WALA KA BANG BARYA?
WALA E!
KIKO
BOBO! SA SUSUNOD MAGHANDA KA NG BARYA, BINIBIGYAN MO KO NG PROBLEMA. BOBO!
ABA!
ANG PROBLEMA KO LANG AY KUNG SAAN AKO KUKUHA NG PAMBAYAD SA IYO, HINDI KO NA PROBLEMA KUNG PAANO MO KO SUSUKLIAN.
MAMROBLEMA KA NGAYON KUNG PAANO KA BABABA, HINDI KITA PABABABAIN. KALA MO HA! WAIS TO BOBO!
JOHN PAUL DUISON

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Donna Karan, Sting, Debbie Villemonte, Don McLean, Lorraine Bracco, Rex Reed

Happy Birthday: Don't waste time. Focus on your goals and be relentless. If you lose that defeatist attitude and start believing, you can form partnerships and make money. Go out and do something for yourself .Your numbers: 9, 13, 22, 25, 28, 33

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep busy today as too much idle time will lead to trouble. No one, including you, has the foggiest idea what you'll do next. Control and direction will be a must.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Slow down; nothing could be that important. You'll make a false impression if you seem jumpy and erratic. Study your finances to determine whether adjustments are needed.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take a stance for a cause you believe in. Your intellect and thirst for knowledge will lead in many new directions. Interesting friendships can develop.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can make professional changes today. Set up interviews or talk to your boss about your career intentions. You may want to check out an interesting business partnership.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You've got everything figured out. You're a born leader in any group. Initiating new projects and sparking others' enthusiasm is a gift and will be an asset.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your financial situation can improve if you make a worthwhile investment. Complete those home-improvement projects you started long ago so you can move on to other, more interesting hobbies.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): What a great day for love. You're ready to make a romantic commitment again. If you are single, you can meet someone new. Spend time with a loved one and let it be known how much you care. You can never reassure a lover often enough.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll be fun-loving and entertaining. After-work activities will allow you to know your colleagues better. Your mysterious and enticing comments will captivate others.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Nothing can hold you down. You need to play hard at challenging, competitive activities and feel that you've conquered the world. You'll enjoy winning.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There is money to be made, so get moving. If you form a partnership, be sure you both understand your responsibilities beforehand.

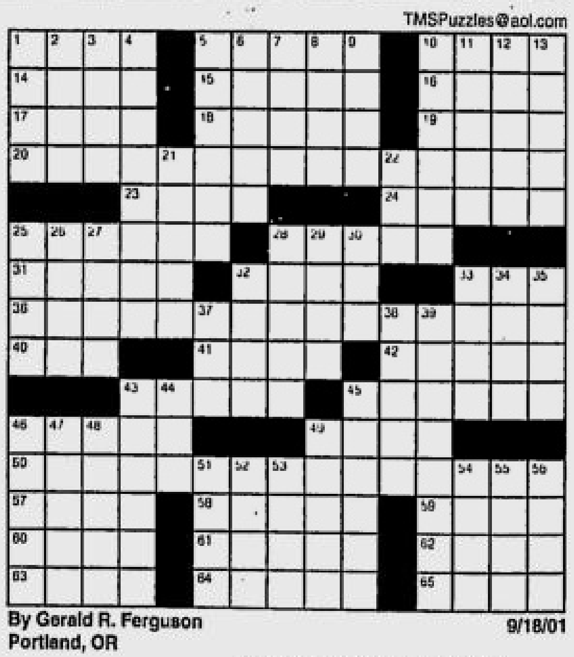
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Socialize with friends who know how to have fun. Shopping can be entertaining and lead to good buys. Romance strikes in the strangest places, so don't hesitate to meet an intriguing person.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can make headway at work. Extra effort is a good way to earn a raise. It may even lead to a better position with more responsibility and satisfying challenges.

Birthday Baby: You have what it takes to be great. You are intuitive, bright and care deeply about others. Your ability to see both sides of an issue will be an asset throughout life.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Gerald R. Ferguson
Portland, OR

9/18/01

ACROSS
1 Baronet's wife
5 Spring harbinger
10 Scoria
14 "Stride la vampa," e.g.
15 Muse of poetry
16 Twosome
17 Apple PCs
18 Alma __
19 Sphere starter?
20 Mother said, don't...
23 Dust particle
24 Garden invaders
25 De la Renta and de la Hoya
28 So long, senorita
31 Excursions
32 One with regrets
33 Greek letter
36 Mother said, don't...
40 Elect (to)
41 Bard's river
42 Bring joy
43 Waterproof covers, briefly
45 Cured
46 Slobber
49 Puts down grass
50 Mother said, don't...
57 Polygonal projection
58 Oxen gear
59 San __ Capistrano
60 Sense
61 News medium
62 Cinema pooch
63 Vietnamese holidays
64 "Bellefleur" author
65 Shed tears

DOWN
1 Somewhat wet
2 Sea east of the Caspian
3 Complex silicate
4 Soft touch
5 Sends payment
6 Speak in a formal manner
7 Cleansing ritual
8 List unit
9 Mrs. Nick Charles
10 Empty spots
11 Woodworker's machine
12 Directed a weapon
13 144
21 Supremely bad
22 Deuce
25 Milanese eight
26 Cleansing agent
27 Quasi-religious group
28 Mercury and Saturn
29 Laura or Bruce
30 Writer Levin
32 Party letters
33 Shade of blue
34 Comic Johnson
35 Manipulated
37 Pole with a blade
38 Essentials
39 Boxer's Achilles' heel?
43 Tub hangers
44 Boxing great
45 Lifting devices
46 Window leak
47 Indian money
48 Beginning
49 Act part
51 Secretarial error
52 Round dance
53 Theatrical sketch
54 River into The Wash
55 Deserve
56 Break sharply

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

P	O	E	M	S	■	M	A	C	A	W	■	C	T	S
A	D	L	A	I	■	A	D	O	R	E	■	O	R	E
L	E	S	E	M	A	J	E	S	T	E	■	U	A	E
■	■	■	■	I	C	O	N	■	■	V	A	P	I	D
I	N	H	A	L	E	R	■	S	P	I	N	D	L	Y
N	O	O	N	E	S	■	G	O	A	L	I	E	■	■
T	E	R	N	S	■	W	E	L	L	S	■	G	E	M
E	L	S	E	■	T	R	O	V	E	■	P	R	A	Y
L	S	D	■	F	R	E	R	E	■	B	L	A	S	E
■	■	O	A	R	I	N	G	■	G	R	O	C	E	R
U	S	E	L	E	S	S	■	T	R	O	W	E	L	S
S	N	U	B	S	■	■	O	H	I	O	■	■	■	■
H	O	V	■	C	H	E	M	I	N	D	E	F	E	R
E	R	R	■	O	A	T	E	R	■	E	L	E	G	Y
R	E	E	■	S	T	A	N	D	■	R	I	D	G	E

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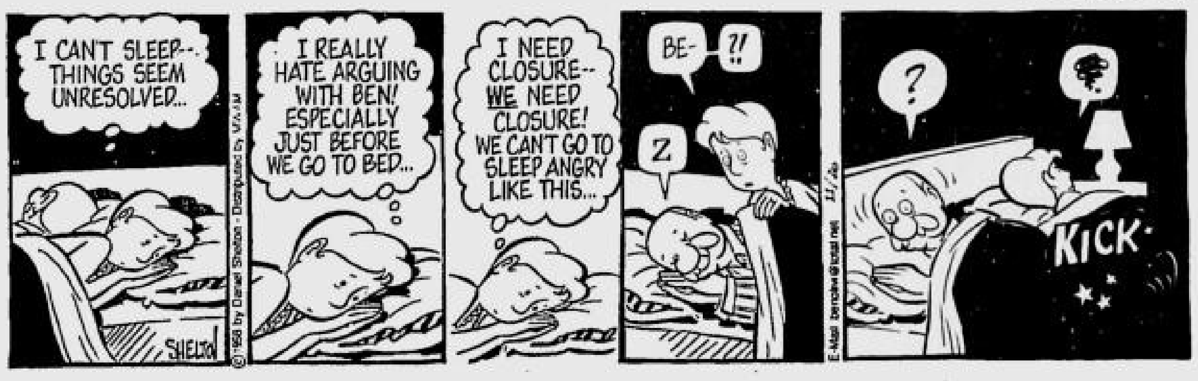
9/18/01

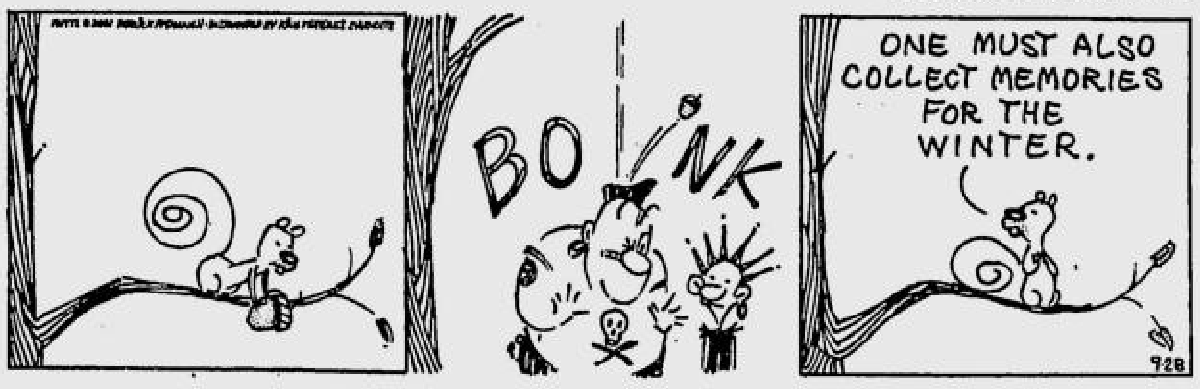
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I CAN'T SLEEP-- THINGS SEEM UNRESOLVED...
SHELTON
I REALLY HATE ARGUING WITH BEN! ESPECIALLY JUST BEFORE WE GO TO BED...
I NEED CLOSURE-- WE NEED CLOSURE! WE CAN'T GO TO SLEEP ANGRY LIKE THIS...
BE-
?!
Z
?
KICK

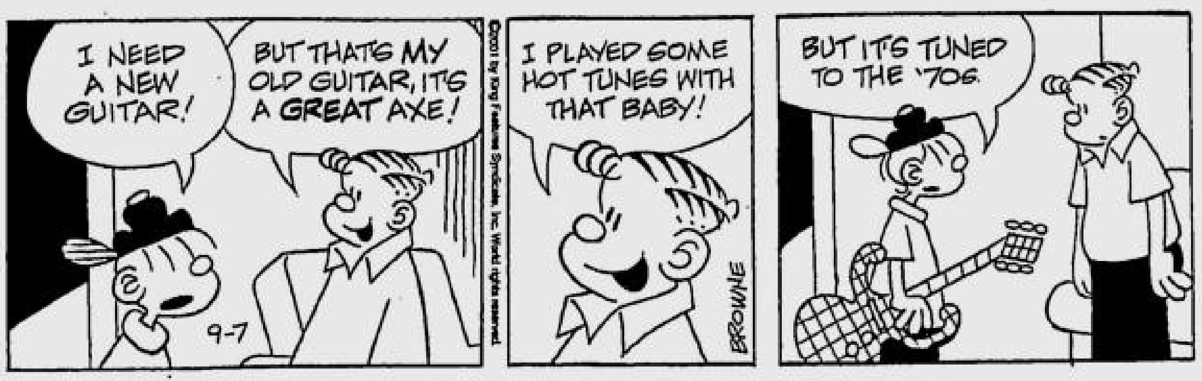
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BO
INK
ONE MUST ALSO COLLECT MEMORIES FOR THE WINTER.
928

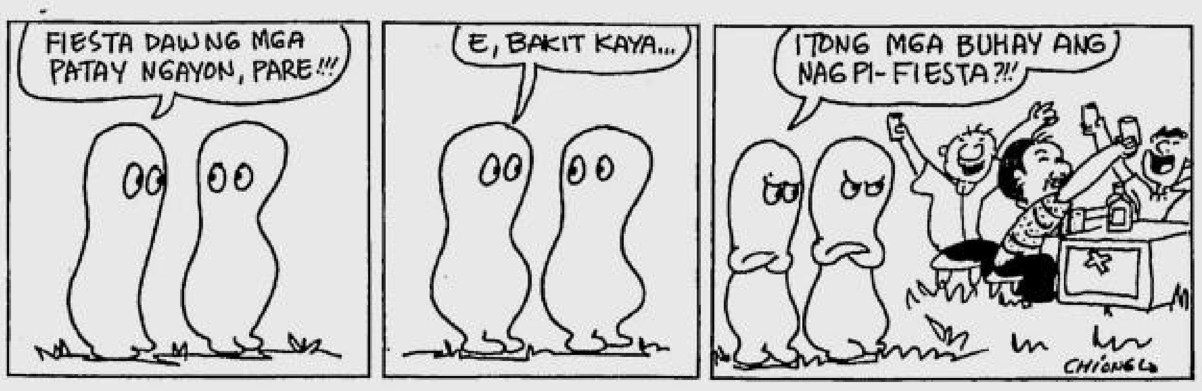
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


I NEED A NEW GUITAR!
BUT THAT'S MY OLD GUITAR, IT'S A GREAT AXE!
9-7
I PLAYED SOME HOT TUNES WITH THAT BABY!
BROWNE
BUT IT'S TUNED TO THE '70S.

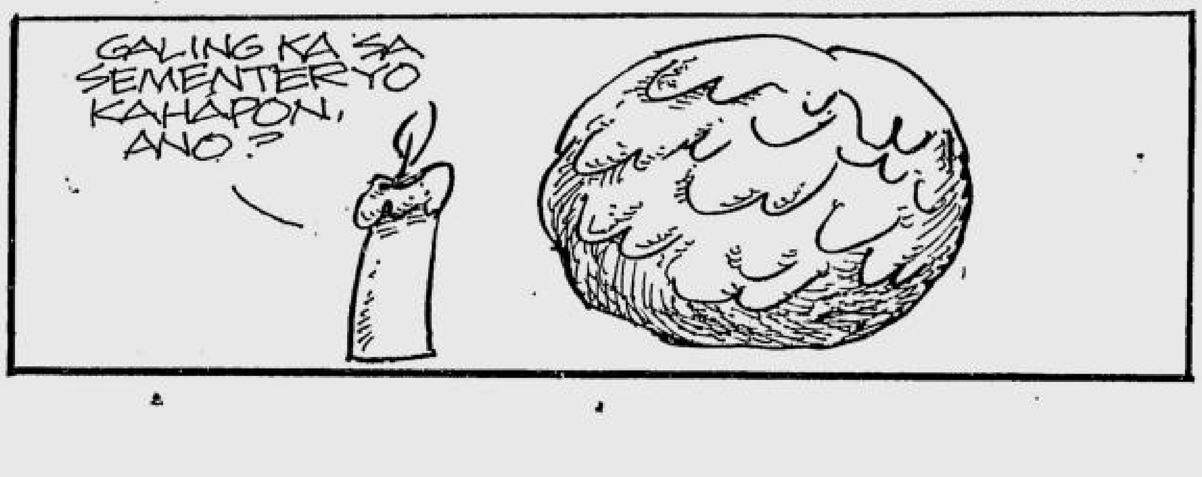
LOVEKNOTS

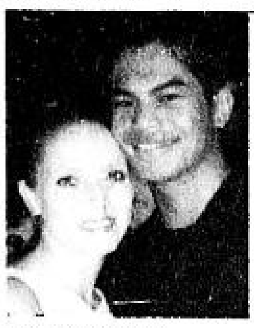
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


FIESTA DAW NG MGA PATAY NGAYON, PARE!!!
E, BAKIT KAYA...
ITONG MGA BUHAY ANG NAG PI-FIESTA?!!
CHIONGLO

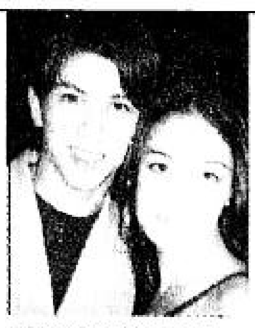
TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


GALING KA SA SEMENTERYO KAHAPON, ANO?


KRISTIENNE Parcel and Glenn Enriquez

E! Philippines' Rosario Herrera and Steve Mills


JONJON Herrera and Ingrid Holm

BELGIUM Ambassador Roland Van Remoortele and wife Sylvia

AUSTRALIAN Wanda Parcel with daughter and future model, Kirja

EGIN Stochlyn

14-year-old Cebuana wins the local Supermodel search

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY RAUL TEEHANKEE

THERE is a never-ending supply of model hopefuls in this country. It would do them good to go to people with a trained eye—an agent, a photographer, a makeup artist or a designer who will transform these awkward young things into "swans" on the catwalk.

This was the experience of the contestants of the Supermodel search. They attended Cal Carrie's seminar on modeling before appearing in public. **Marjay Ramirez** from Cebu is the winner of this year's Ford Supermodel Philippines She is only 14 years old and is 5'9" tall.

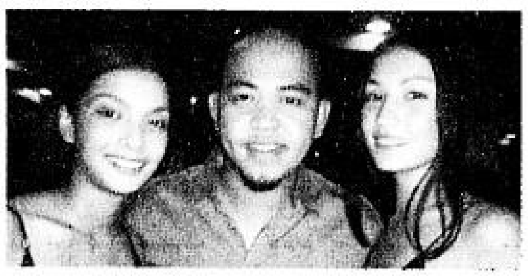
We've seen such lookers of mixed genes as **Sarah Meier, Assunta da Rossi, Wilma Doesnt** and new faces like **Bianca Fernandez, Solen** and **Ingrid Holm**, who was introduced to me by photographer **Xander Angeles** and **Jonjon Herrera** during the Ford Supermodel show held at the Westin Philippine Plaza Ballroom last Wednesday.

How will the Philippines fare in the Supermodel international contest to be held in Miami?

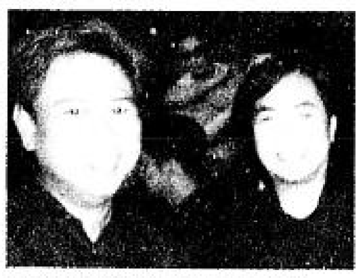
Melanie Marquez was the only Filipina who made it to the top three slots and she already had an international beauty title before she joined the contest. That was nearly 20 years ago!

This batch of special awardees **Natalie Sy** (Face of the Year and Miss Photogenic), **Gayle Ong** (Es-Ac's Runway Award), **Joanely Cuyugan** (Oxygen's Special Style Awardee) and **Lee Arayi** (Body Active Award from Lee) shows promise. They have attitude, personality, definitive beauty and model figure, the strut and that so-called X-factor.

Let's just hope that this year's winner, Marjay, will be able hold her own as she competes with other model hopefuls on Nov. 17 in the 2001 Supermodel of the World.


PHOTOGRAPHER Xander Angeles flanked by Cal Carrie models Bianca Fernandez and Solen

JOEY Espino


FREDERICK Peralta and Barge Ramos

BOARD of judges Audie Espino, Joey Espino and Masatomo Kimura

RPN 9 president Lincoln Tan and wife, Malou

TV ad model Mark Dungo

US Vice Consul John Aloia and Turkish Third Secretary Murat Dikmen

EX-MODEL Elektrika (a.k.a. Sarah Meier's mom) with Ford NY rep and judge Masatomo Kimura

Party time

VENEZIA, that popular bar at Glorietta, presents its third installment of the "Stargazing @ Louie Y's" series on Nov. 6, 9 p.m. It features the best of the music of Manila's longest-running world-class dance club, Euphoria. The party promises to be a night of nostalgia and great dance music baby boomers grew up with. Cocoy Puyat is the featured DJ. This event is strictly by invitation. Call 813-6930/6967.

MTV VJ Sarah Meier is given a makeover by Jingky Ilusorio.

SCENES from the opening of Supermodel Philippines

Bilis patak, Bilis patay ang SKIN FUNGI

New Tioconazole Trosyd Lotion sa presyong patak-patak.

Hindi kasing mahal ng ibang 5 gram antifungal creams. Konting patak lang, bilis-patay ang an-an, buni, athlete's foot at had-had. At dahil lotion, it spreads easily and vanishes quickly. With the same potent formula that's also available in cream.

Bilis-patak. Bilis-patay.

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XOXO
XOXONFRNDS
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Home

In the midst of death, much life

BY ADRIAN LIZARES
PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA
VISUAL CONCEPT BY ALBERT AVELLANA

STATELY royal palms echoed by the classical pillars in the background

AH! Another long weekend! The two days when most Filipinos are compelled by tradition to visit cemeteries and honor their ancestors may also find many people lounging away in some secluded hideaway. For those of us who prefer to live by tradition, it is once again a good time to observe our surroundings.

I attended a funeral of a dear friend last month. During the funeral, I realized I had wandered off to admire the surroundings together with the twin of the deceased. We are very much into plants, and maybe it is this relationship that keeps my friends and I together a lot of times. As much as it was a very sad event, we managed to turn it into a rather "joyful" celebration by looking around us that day.

We paused to admire the trees surrounding the family's mausoleum. There were several tall palm trees, which were still on that breezeless morning. We crossed the field and ended up face to face with the cannonball tree, *Couropita guianensis*, an amazing sight. It is native to South America. Its trunk burst with red flowers that looked like mangosteen with the peel pushed outward, revealing its rather frilly flesh.

I read somewhere this tree being listed under "fragrant plants," albeit it only gives off scent nocturnally. If one sticks his/her nose to this bloom, a world redolent of the odd rose-scented perfumes grand old ladies prefer comes to mind. These flowers eventually become the cannonball fruit, described in many books as an "oddity."

Expeditions

There are many cannonball trees planted around the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat. Our guide around the park, Santos Paladan, said that acacia were the first trees to be planted and they still exist. In the '80s, under the employ of Dexter Hueschel, Santos and another colleague were recruited to gather plant specimens around the country, with focus on Quezon and Bicol, where Santos is from.

So seed-gathering treks were made. In the true ecological manner of gathering plant specimens, the mother plants were not removed from their environment. They were staked out, marked and visited a couple of times a year, when seeds or offspring were expected.

We went around the park and Santos identified the trees that were the result of the seed-gathering expeditions, often carried out by the gatherers for two weeks on foot. It is amazing to note that since the first batch of seeds was gathered 16 years ago, a whole park has been planted to various endemic plant species save for the cannonball tree whose seeds came from Canada.

Among the showiest of the plants would be the *Barringtonia asiatica*, locally known as *botong*. It

IN/p.D2

HYPHAENE *coriacea*, commonly known as the *ilala* palm, comes from Africa.

THIS specimen was collected in 1982 in Garchitorena, Bicol.

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WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

THE ONE

Kung-Fu superstar Jet Li returns to the big screen in this action-packed film from Columbia Pictures. Catch a glimpse of his fighting style in a martial arts demo from DM95.5 and TRACMA. Movie opens November 7 at Robinsons Cinemas.

November 4, Sunday, 4PM
Fountain Area
Robinsons Galleria

November 5, Monday, 4PM
Orosa Atrium
Robinsons Place Manila

ROBINSONS Malls
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Thinning and falling hair can turn your lush locks into limp, wispy strands. If shampoos and conditioners can't solve your hair-loss problem, don't think that you're beyond help already. Come to **Svenson International** for the most effective solutions to stop hair loss and restore thickness to your hair. **Tricho-DHT Inhibitor** is the solution to counteract Dihydrotestosterone (DHT), a converted hormone that is proven to be the main culprit of hair loss among men but is also apparent among women. DHT builds up in the hair follicles causing thinner strands until nothing regrows. Along with this treatment, Svenson also offers **Laser Hair Cell Accelerator.** A special soft laser is applied directly on your scalp and acts like a light vitamin to increase the amount of hair cells. It helps to prolong the life of these cells so you can get longer, stronger-growing hair. **When combined, these treatments are proven to combat hair loss and accelerate the process of hair regrowth.**

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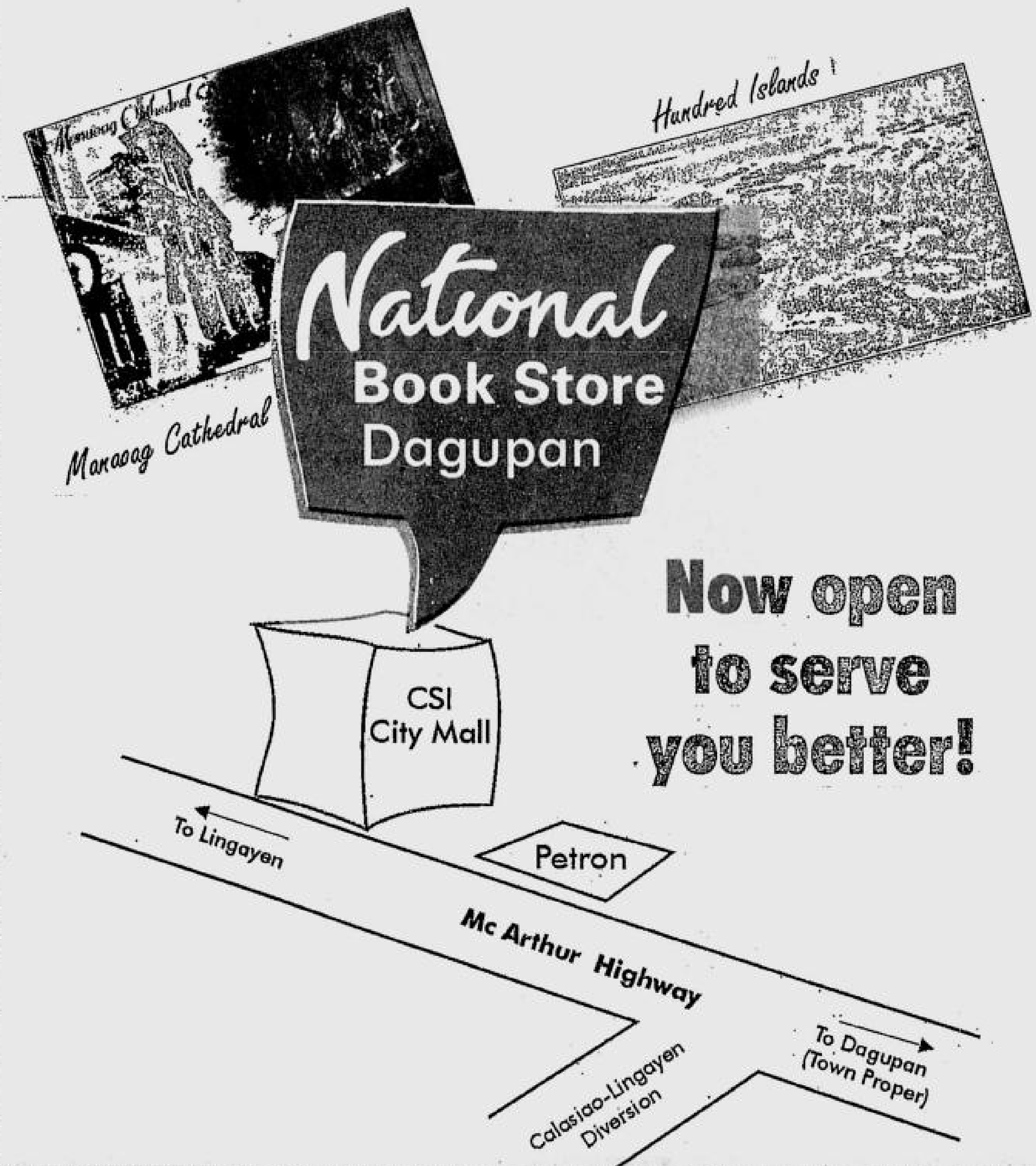

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Hundred Islands

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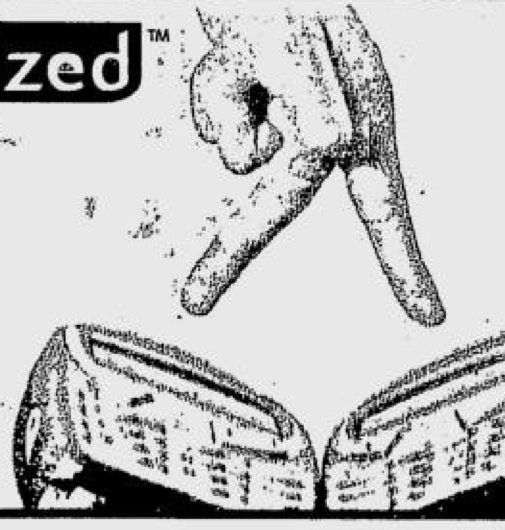

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Bonsai comes to the mall

BY TITA GIRON
PHOTOS BY RUBEN ALMAZAN (PPI)

UNTIL recently, bonsai shows were held outdoors or in greenhouses where they could get fresh air and sunlight they needed to survive. But today, bonsai exhibits surprisingly are making their way to hotel lobbies and, for the first time, in a shopping mall. Miniature living trees, about 30 selections from the collection of the Philippine Bonsai Society members, are on exhibit until Sunday at the Padre Faura Atrium, Robinsons Place, Ermita.

Scaled down to incredible proportion, the trees range in age from 25 to over 100 years old. Every single tree is meticulously shaped and groomed to pass century-old rules and standards that would qualify them as bonsai. They are exact replicas of familiar giant trees such as *balete, mulawin* and *bantigue*. Each one is mounted on special bonsai trays and vases with miniature rocks, mosses and stones to simulate their natural setting.

"World-class" is how the society members describe their show, not only because most of the trees on exhibit meet international standards. Some of the trees have already won awards in international competitions. Among the proud owners of award-winning bonsai are businessman Willi Hahn, Fely Gupit and Vic Ceballos.

For their special show, the members invited bonsai master John Chung of Taiwan to select the 10 outstanding bonsai and the best bonsai. Chung is popular among local bonsai enthusiasts. He is a director of the Taiwan Tiny Bonsai Association. He teaches bonsai culture to high school students and has written books and articles that have been translated in English, French and Indian.

WILLI Hahn grooming his award-winning *Ficus Microcarpa* in preparation for PBSI Bonsai Show 2001. As overall Best in Show winner, Hahn holds the distinction of winning this prestigious title for the second consecutive year.

Bonsai evokes peace

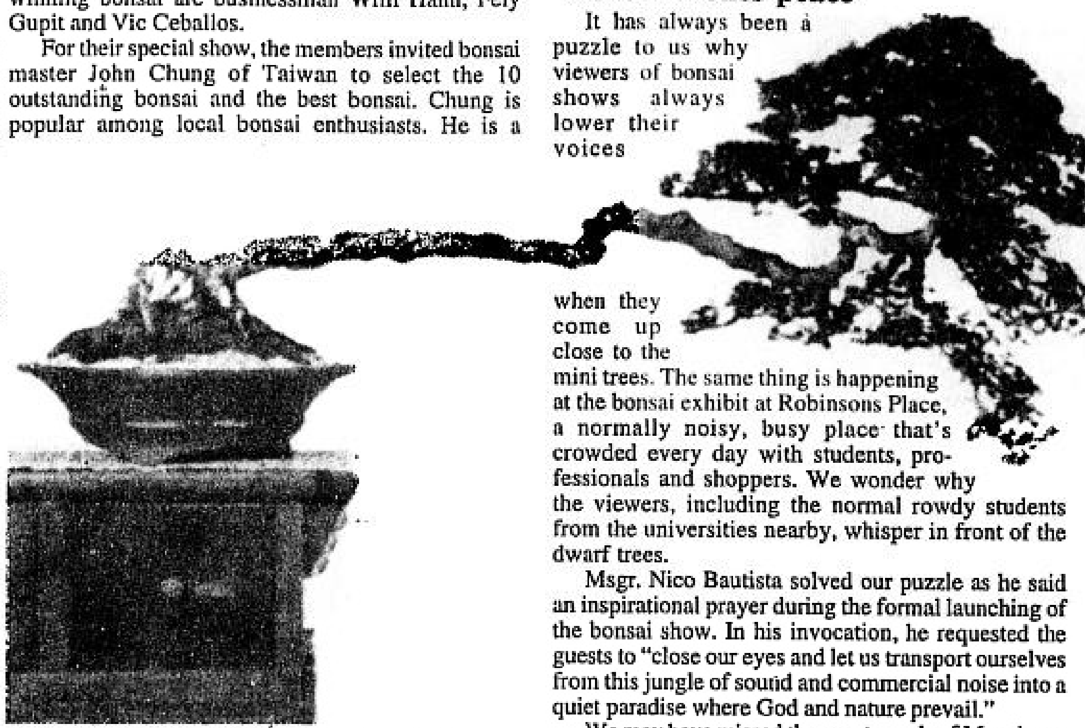
It has always been a puzzle to us why viewers of bonsai shows always lower their voices when they come up close to the mini trees. The same thing is happening at the bonsai exhibit at Robinsons Place, a normally noisy, busy place that's crowded every day with students, professionals and shoppers. We wonder why the viewers, including the normal rowdy students from the universities nearby, whisper in front of the dwarf trees.

Msgr. Nico Bautista solved our puzzle as he said an inspirational prayer during the formal launching of the bonsai show. In his invocation, he requested the guests to "close our eyes and let us transport ourselves from this jungle of sound and commercial noise into a quiet paradise where God and nature prevail."

We may have missed the exact words of Monsignor Nicko's invocation, but his message was clear enough to solve our puzzle. Indeed, bonsai transports the viewer to a special world that evokes peace and quiet.

Members have their own explanation. According to Yumie Gupit, one of the youngest members of the society, "bonsai is a living tree, it keeps us close to nature where there is peace and quiet."

The show's chair, Vic Ceballos, explained, "Bonsai absorbs your tension and stress and gives you the security of peace of mind. When you're face to face with a bonsai, it is just you and the tree, alone in a secure world." A former president of the society, Ceballos teaches at Ateneo Law School. When his schedule permits, he gives lectures about bonsai culture in local and international meetings. Three of his bonsai won awards at the current show.



A 20-YEAR-OLD Fukien Tea, locally known as *tsaang gubat* in the Literati Style, has received prizes both here and abroad. Honored as one of the Top 100 Bonsai in the JAL World Bonsai Contest 2000 in Kyoto, Japan, it was chosen as one of the Top 10 bonsai during PBSI Show 2001 held at Robinsons Place Manila. This is from the bonsai collection of Fely S. Gupit.

21-YEAR-OLD *Premna Microphylla* (*argao*), one of the Top 10 winners of Bonsai Show 2001, owned by lawyer Vic Ceballos

The special guests at the formal opening of "Bonsai 2001" were Rose Laurel Avancena, founding president of the 28-year old bonsai society, and Bonjay Isip, the deputy city administrator of Manila.

Educational show

"We want to bring bonsai to the public, in such places as Robinsons where shoppers, officegoers and students can appreciate this ancient art of miniaturizing trees," Ceballos said. There are daily lectures on bonsai culture for hobby and source of livelihood. The side events include a market section where bonsai tools, trees, reading materials and gardening needs are on sale.

"There are certain things we want to correct. First, the cost of the hobby is not as prohibitive as some people think. Second, one doesn't have to buy bonsai trees because our country has abundant materials. In fact, there is an abundance of tree materials growing in the backyard."

Ceballos described bonsai as "low-cost with high value." It's high time bonsai becomes a source of livelihood for many people, he said, and we are confident that the show at Robinsons will prove it, if only to make it worth all the time and effort the members put into it.

Evidently, it is no joke transporting the dwarf trees in their heavy containers from the members' private gardens to Robinsons. The living trees need special care and attention so they don't get shocked or uprooted from their containers.

"Our trees are used to natural environment and they can only stay a maximum of three days in the air-conditioned and closed confine at the mall. After three days, their leaves turn to yellow and start dropping off," founding member Fely Gupit explained to us. Some of the trees she and daughter Yumie patiently transported to the exhibit are multiawarded specimens like the 25-year-old Fookien tea that won a prize in an international competition in Japan.

Only 30 trees can be accommodated in the limited show area. The trees can only stay a maximum of three days because they're not used to air-conditioned enclosures. But all in all, there are 70 trees taking their turns in the exhibit floor for three days. The members bring them to the site by car, van, or cargo truck.

Show winners

Businessman Willie Hahn's *Ficus microcarpa* won the best-in-show award. It is a *banyan* tree with exposed roots and a crown of branches, spreading broom-style. It is not surprising that the bonsai beauty also won the top award in the last bonsai show.

Two out of the 10 best bonsai in show belonged to Fely Gupit. These were the twin trunk *Fookien tea*, an 85-year-old eye-catcher with gnarled branches that give it the ancient look; and the 25-year-old *Fooken tea*, which is a pedigree holder. It is a certificate holder that shows it to be one of the top 100 bonsai of the world.

The other winning bonsai are: *Muraya exotica* with exposed roots, owned by Willie Han; *Muraya exotica*, informal upright, owned by Vic Ceballos; *Logwood*, forest-style of V. Ceballos; *Argao*, rock-clasping style of V. Ceballos; *Ficus microcarpa*, broom-style of Dr. Oding Reyes; *Bantigue*, twisted twin-trunk of Romy Dino; and *Mulawin aso* of Rolly de Jesus.

Call 721-7818.

JOHN Chung, visiting bonsai judge and lecturer of the Philippine Bonsai Society Inc., intently studies the merits of a numbered entry, a century-old *Pemphis Acidula* (*bantigue*), and later judged as one of the Top 10 winners. This twisted trunk bonsai beauty belongs to Romy Diño, PBSI Best in Show Winner 1999. There were more than 70 entries competing for the Ten Best Bonsai during PBSI Show 2001 at Robinsons Place Manila.

In the midst of death, much life

(From page D1)

had large pinkish-white flowers that looked like a huge shaving brush, the specimen of which was found in Infanta, Quezon. They are common along the seashores and are tolerant of high winds and salt. There were also numerous *bignay* plants around the park; they also came from Quezon. Palms, too, were collected from this part of the country, and many species are to be found in Polillo Island.

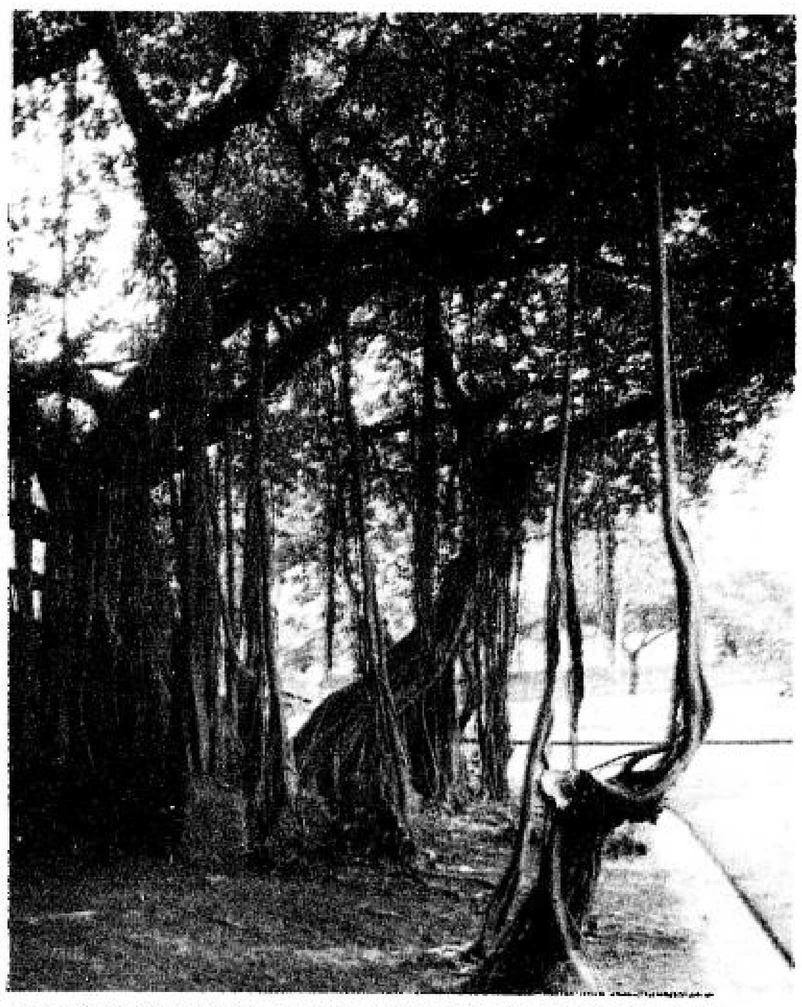
From the Bicol area came the *Pongamia pinnata*, a common plant usually found along the seashore, its pink flowers falling to the ground upon maturity, leaving a carpet of colored blooms. Some plants were unknown to me but their good looks are featured in today's issue.

Propagation

The collection of different endemic species and other plants had ended. Santos and his colleagues have since concentrated on the nursery and the propagation of the plants. Initially the nursery was located within the compound in Sucat, Parañaque; it was later on transferred to a new nursery in the park's Dasmariñas, Cavite branch where a whole new staff has been assigned to the care of these plants. A new park in Davao has also received the seeds and seedlings.

Other plants from various collectors around the country have made their way to the Manila Memorial Park's collection by way of trade (swapping) during the term of Hueschel. This has introduced newer and more novel specimens from around the world to the collection.

Plants are like fashion; they follow certain trends. These trends are usually set by a small, close-knit group of individuals that operate from far-flung corners of the world. They are the ones who have the "collector's items," rare plants that nobody else has. They, too, are financially capable of introducing new varieties to the market. They recognize the great botanical resource a nation has.



FICUS BENJAMINA. A perfect candidate for memorial parks

SANTOS Padalan at work in the Manila Memorial Park

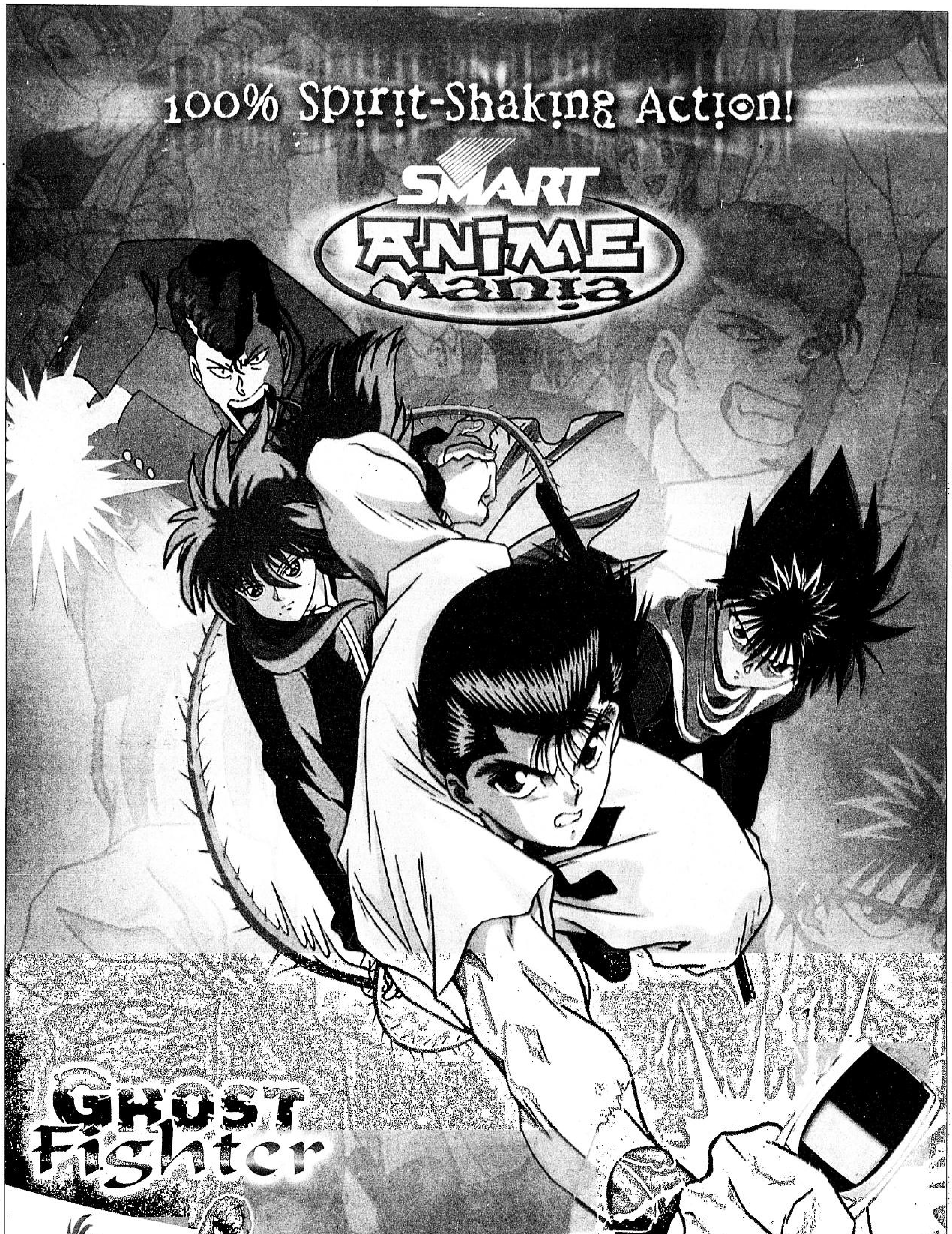
THE SHOWY flower of the *botong* plant

***NONI* PLANT.** The recent herbal wonder made visitors to this park collect its fruits.

SEASIDE plant from Bicol: *Pongamia pinnata*

FROM SOUTH AMERICA TO MANILA. The cannonball tree, *Couropita guianensis*, showing off its curious trademarks.

FLOWERS and seeds of the *Harpulia arborea* from the Bicol region



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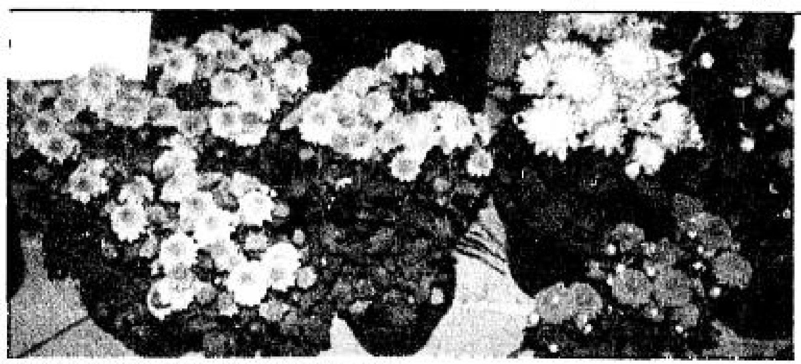

DWARF potted mums will be on sale

Fund-raiser features Batangas products

A UNIQUE Batangueño style of fund-raising dubbed "Ala-Eh" bazaar will be held on Nov. 11, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish Hall, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Overall chair Sonia T. Aquino said the bazaar is to raise funds for the out-of-school children of Tan-awan City. On sale will be native delicacies and other products from Batangas and Laguna, such as handicrafts, export overruns, Christmas décors, home and garden décors for all occasions, children's toys, handmade embroidered barongs, fresh fruits and vegetables. There will also be ornamental plants and flowers such as dish-gardens, bonsai materials, terrariums, mini waterfalls, potted flowering plants, fertilizers, pots and vases and other garden accessories ideal for Christmas giveaways.

With Alice Tesoro-Guerrero, Nora Malabanan, Maitet Collantes and Emer Lirio as project advisers, application for booth concessions are available at Tesoro's Makati, Pasay Road and Tesoro's Ayala Alabang Town Center. Call Lobel at 894-1224, Sonia at 809-7061 or Maitet Collantes at 807-0338.

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Marine reserves on Sumilon and Apo islands

Last of two parts

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

ANGEL C. Alcala's book, "Marine Reserves in the Philippines: Historical Development, Effects and Influence on Marine Conservation Policy" traces the paths our scientists and lawmakers have taken toward marine conservation. There have been many successes but also some failures, all of which serve to enrich the experience and guidelines for sound marine conservation, mainly our coral reefs and marine sanctuaries referred to as "reserves."

One of the first reserves was that of Sumilon Island, off Cebu, which thrived well for six years under the management of Silliman University's scientific team. By the 1980s, political realities in the towns with jurisdiction over the reserve area changed the course of marine activities there. Fishermen were allowed to fish again in former sanctuaries, and the local governments were allowed to manage their own natural resources. For Silliman University researchers, it meant a disruption of studies and monitoring activities, and time to exit.

A similar conservation project on Apo Island, not too far from the Negros mainland, was by then in operation. A marine reserve was planned here as well, and despite some early opposition, Silliman scientists were able to convince the doubters that rather than decrease their fish catch, as they feared, the reserves, though smaller in size, would increase their fish supply. They were told that habitats would be protected, fish biomass would be allowed to build up, and fish yield would increase with the export of adult fish from the reserve to the fished (or nonreserve) areas. Once convinced of these advantages, the people buckled down to work.

The Apo marine reserve, established in 1979, was patterned after that of Sumilon. A sanctuary (or nontake reserve) was set up as well as a fishing area for the community folk. In the fished area, all forms of destructive fishing methods were prohibited. It was easier to convince the people of Apo to adapt the idea of a marine reserve for the population then was small and the community was a close-knit one (it seems bigger populations compound the problem).

Community-based approach

To put it briefly, one of the first conditions for a successful marine reserve is that it be established through a partnership between local stakeholders (the community) and a facilitating organization or agency. If an educational institution is included, the setup would be better. This is what a community-based approach means. Otherwise, says Alcala, the reserve will fail. The organization or agency must commit resources to protect the reserve at all costs.

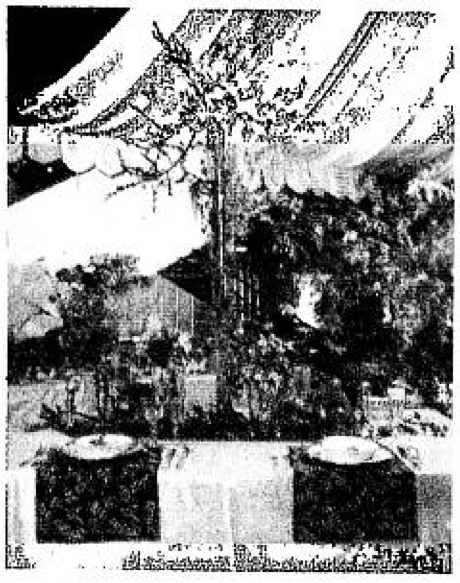
Second, the reserve must be protected from all fishing at all times. Third, the people themselves or their organization must serve as managers of the reserve, and it is they who should execute and implement their plans. There are other conditions, but these are the three that start the ball rolling.

Apo Marine Reserve today is a model of coral reef conservation that makes use of a marine reservation as a fishery management tool; one that uses the community-based approach for resource management, something that was lacking in Sumilon.

By making the community participate in a project that directly affects its members, chances are greater that the cause of problems and their solutions would be looked into with more earnestness.

There is still much to be done about our marine resources, writes Alcala. Of an estimated 1.7-2.5 million hectares of coral reef, barely 4 percent is actually being protected. There are also an estimated 500 marine reserves or marine protected areas in the country as of recent count, but only a few are properly managed. However, where there are reserves, fish production is bound to be stable and chances for overall success are greater.

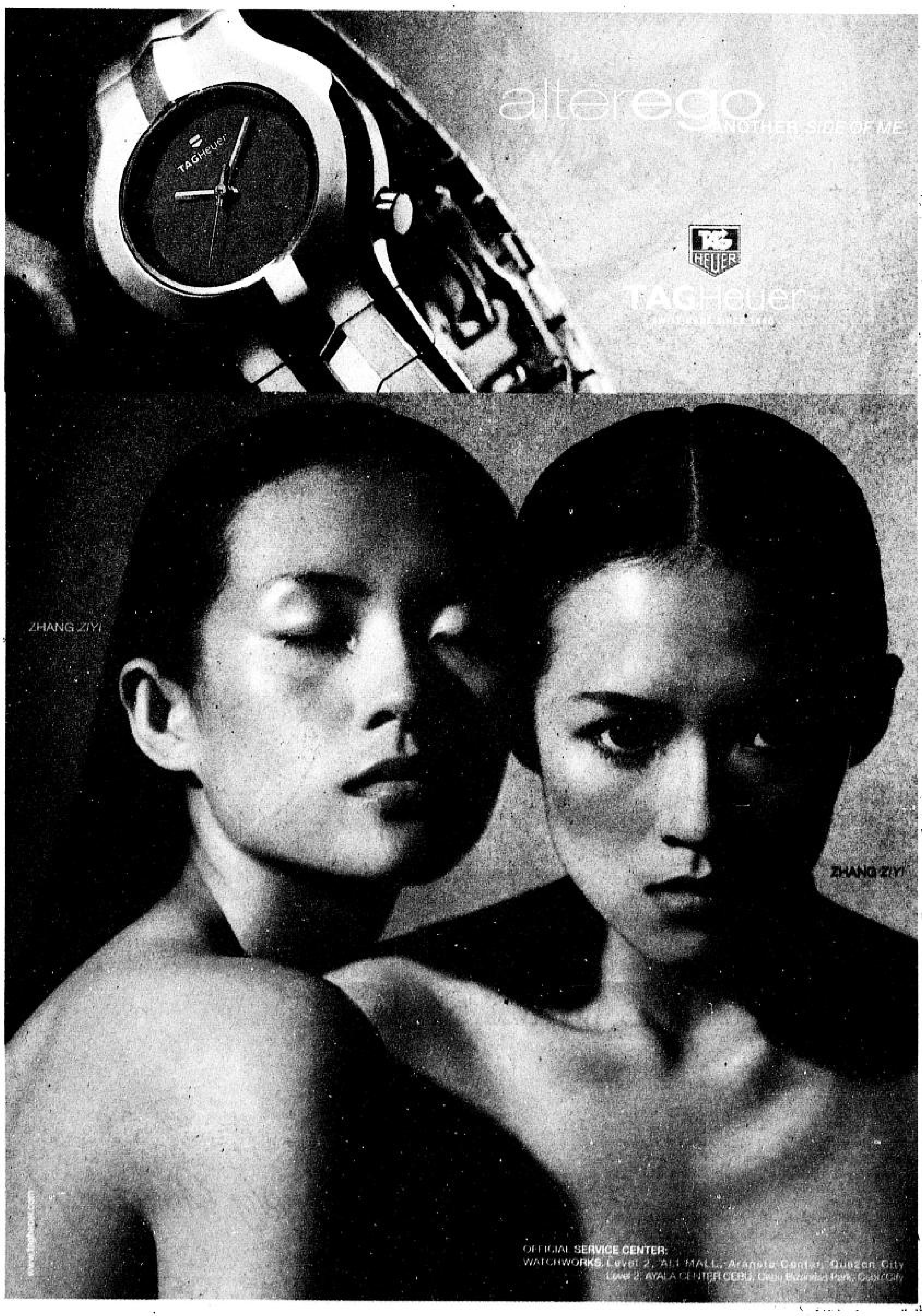
Alcala's book is full of instructions on proper ways to make marine reserves and coral reefs tourist attractions and another rich source of income. There is, of course, much emphasis on the application of the community-based approach which, incidentally, is now being adapted by other environmental groups as their own solutions.



Holiday themes

AS the years progressed, Christmas has evolved from a mere festivity to a celebration of creativity for those with artistic sense. The Rustan's Flower Shop is one store that has conceptualized interesting designs.

The shop carries a wide assortment of local and imported Christmas ornaments. Each piece creates a particular "look." This year, the store tackles five themes namely, the Traditional Country, Gold, Victorian, Russian Royalty and Fantasy collections. Whatever theme you choose to use, it would come out as elegant and beautiful as it always has been.



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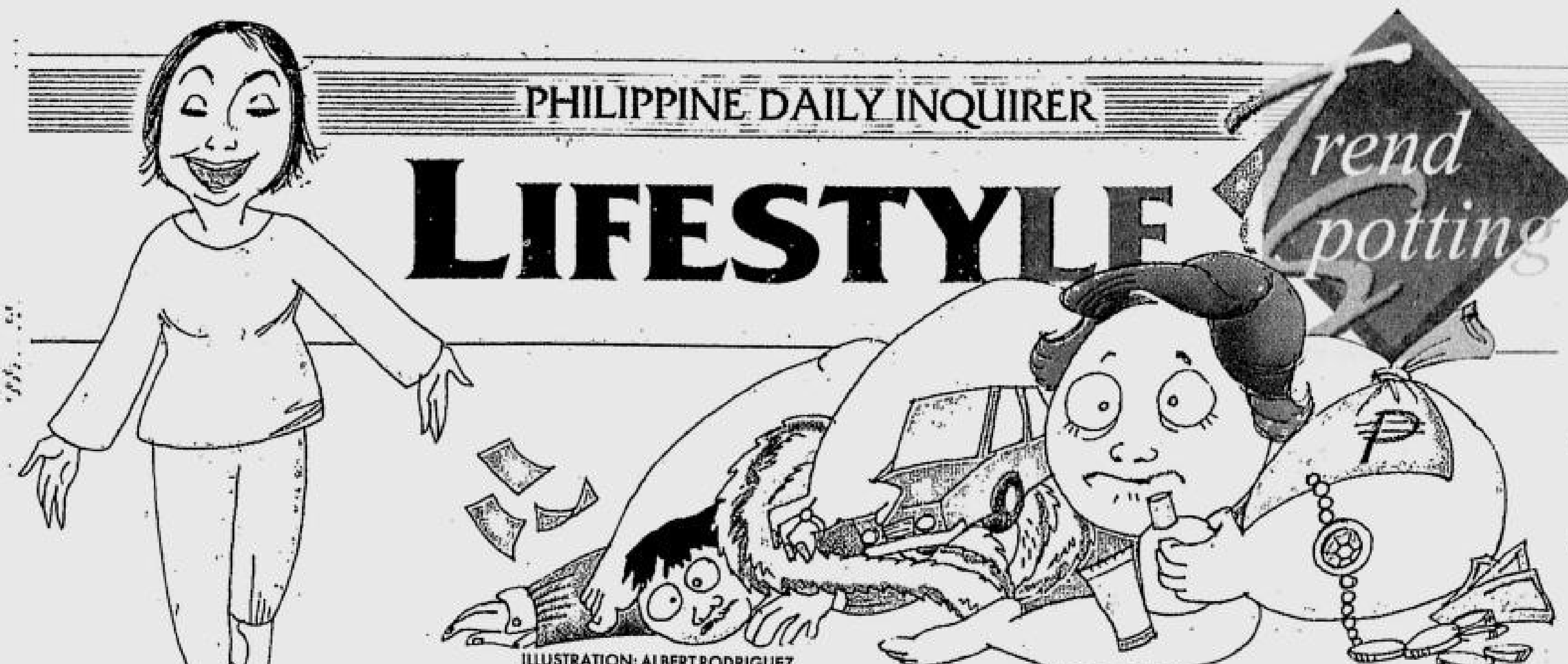

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Seven habits of highly enlightened souls

The world is divided between darkened and enlightened souls. Which side are you on?

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ

ARE you happy? Think again.

"Every individual is experiencing darkness in one way or another. Enlightenment is possible only with 'internal work,' by cultivating one's state of being," said Mike George at a lecture held at Earthlite recently.

The London-based management consultant and life coach visited the Philippines to share his insights on life and happiness.

George said man had lost awareness of what was true in his journey called life. This is why beliefs have been created and maintained—to the point that man resort to violence to defend them.

"When we believe in something, it is not necessarily the truth. No one can convince us of what is true," said George.

Even George cannot convince us of what is true. He says he can only guide us to our "aha!" moments, also called the "eureka" moments, instances of realization or quick insight. Here, there is a release of energy and power. This is what is described as enlightenment.

"The truths are within us,-not outside. It is our false beliefs that block the truth," said George.

Asked what is the missing link in our search for the truth, he replied, "All that I'm saying is an expression of my spirituality—knowing the self first. I'm not any of my labels but I'm spirit, a soul and a source of peace and happiness. This is what exactly Jesus, Buddha and other prophets were up to. Their common essential message is to know yourself first. Go beyond belief. Get into the truth. Religion is already packaged. Spirituality is more about process. Starting with the self is proper selfishness."

In his lecture at Earthlite, George showed the contrast between truths and myths by describing the characteristics of "darkened souls" and "enlightened souls."

Seven habits of darkened souls

1. Acquisition is equivalent to substance. This is based on the belief that the more you have, the more success and happiness you achieve. This is why many people go for compulsive shopping. In fact, what they create is the fear of loss or fear of damage, which is the entry point for insecurity or spiritual ignorance.

2. Control of other human beings. In childhood, we probably picked up from our parents the habit of reprimanding others. Without realizing it, we spend our life controlling others or trying to change others according to how we think they should behave. Suddenly we get feedback from someone that we need to change our behavior.

3. Dependence on something or someone. We attribute happiness to marriage, when the kids come home and when we retire. We delay happiness. The paradox is, most human beings are happy being unhappy. Happiness comes not from external conditions but from within. We create our own happiness.

We are conditioned to believe that love is what will complete our lives. Deep inside what we have is a huge emotional need for love, and a fear of unsatisfied longing. George says that love in its pure form is a sparkle that the energized, self-aware spirit spreads in every direction.

4. Belief in labels. This is our greatest mistake and one of our deepest habits. We ask, "What is your profession? Where do you come from?" Then you end the conversation with that. When you do this, you cease to try to understand the other person. The more you label another, the more you give power to that label than to the real identity of the person. What were neutral labels yesterday have become negative ones today.

5. Listening to the voice of the inner critic (the victim and the judge). The critic says, "I can't change, I can't be enlightened, I am no good!" We need to transform these voices. We need to love them to death because love is the only thing that kills fear.

Try seeing yourself in front of the mirror the moment you wake up. Start laughing at yourself—a guaranteed stress reliever. This is the way to have a real relationship with the self as against what others think about you.

6. We can lose something valuable. In his book "Discover Inner Peace," George describes attachment as the condition from which we suffer when we are incapable of acceptance. "In our lack of belief in ourselves, we cling to material possessions as substitutes for self worth; we become fixed in our habits, especially those that give us pleasure; we react emotionally when life does not go as planned, or when the ego sees the opportunities for inflating itself."

The truth is we own nothing but we can only use material things. We are only trustees of these things for some time. Our possessiveness generates fear and causes our diseases. Negative thoughts weaken the immune system. George quotes a Buddhist tru-

SEVEN/ p.E3

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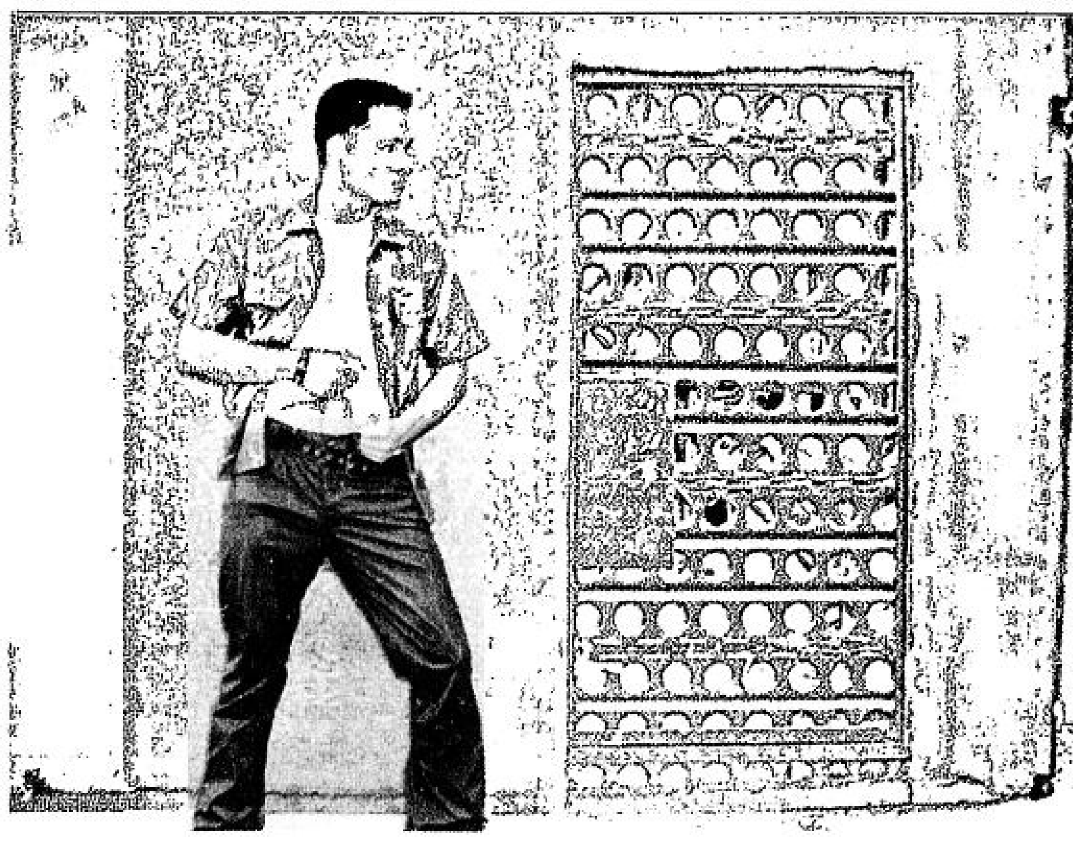
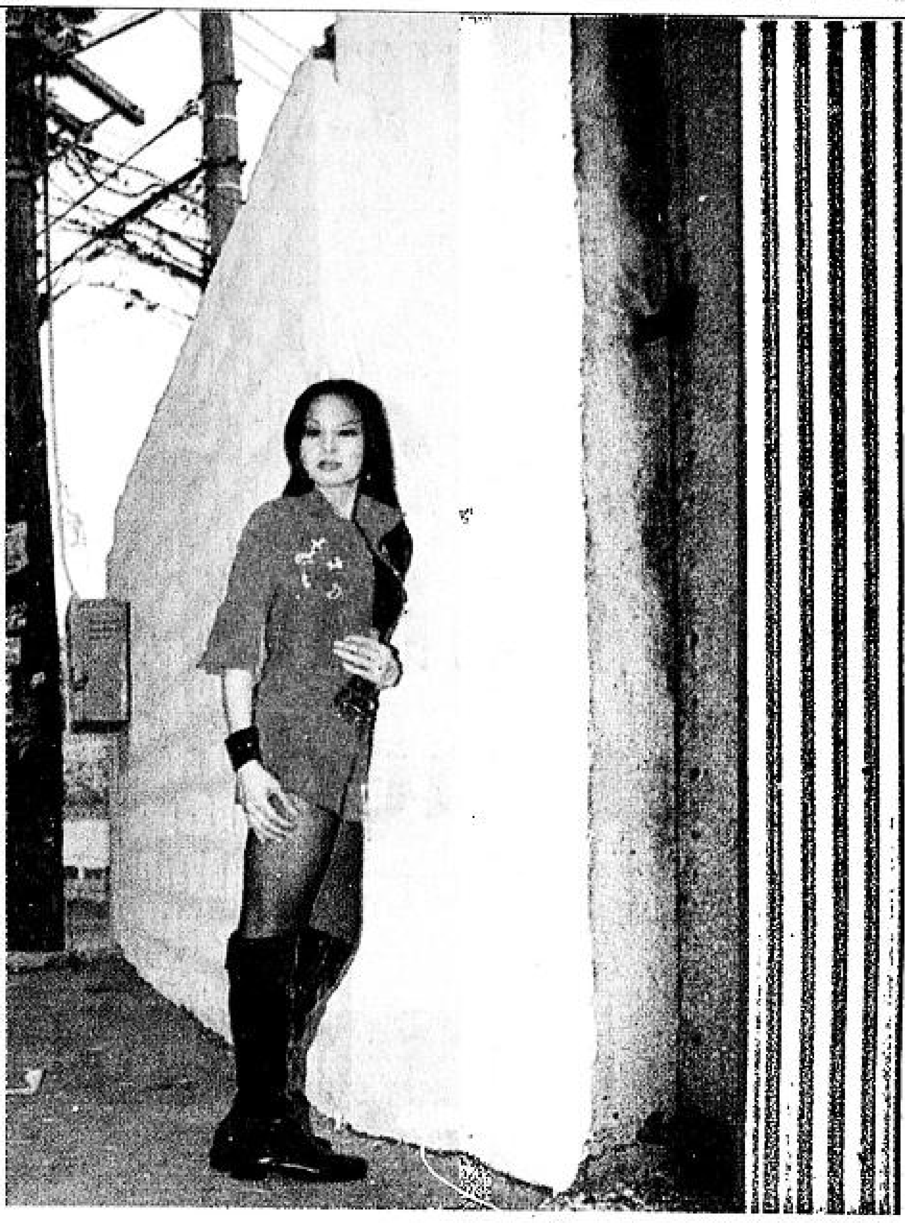


TO SUSTAIN a relationship, we need to understand what we expect of one another and what we expect of ourselves.

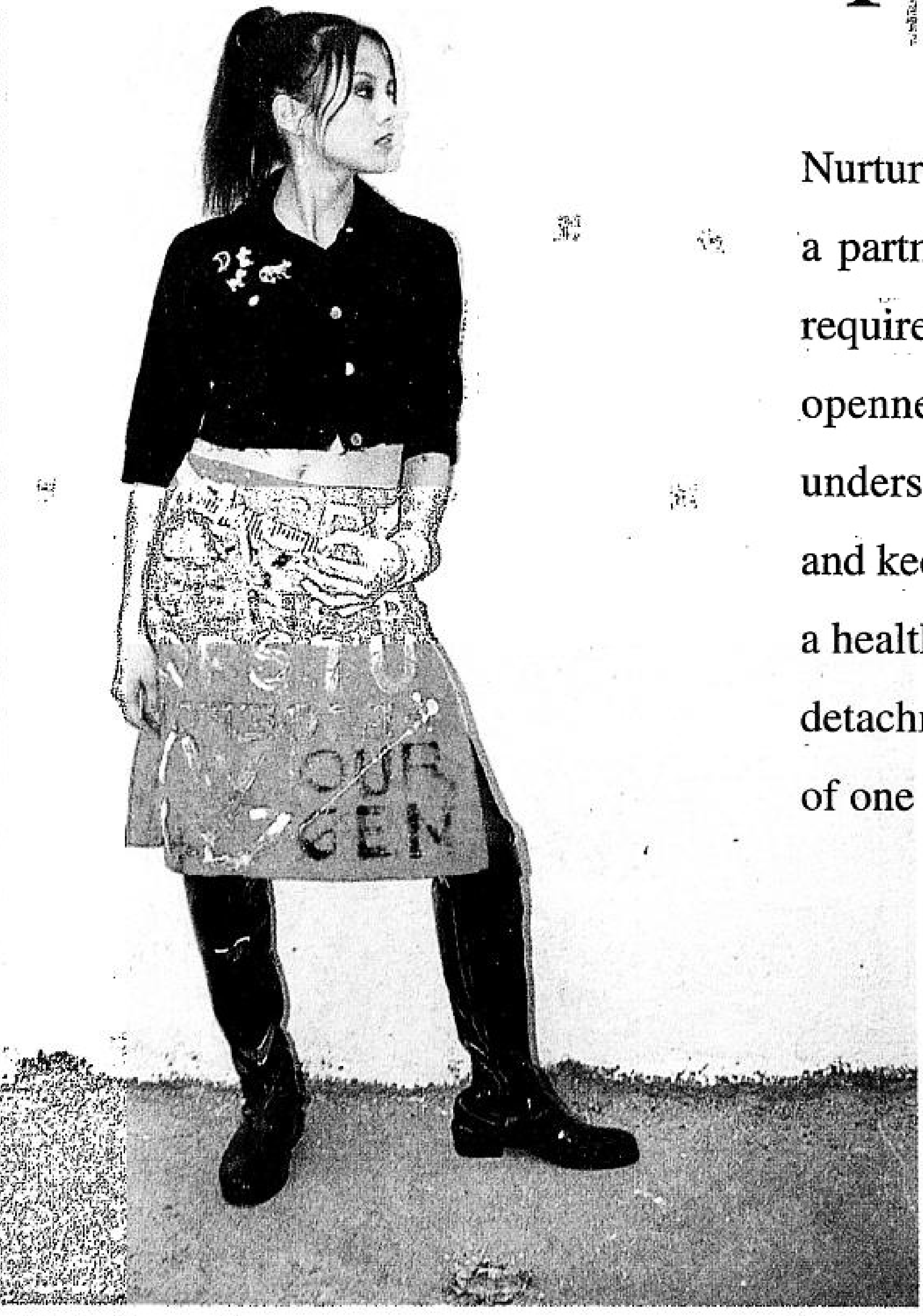


AVOID pinning guilt or blame; be forthcoming about insecurities.

The bedrock of a relationship

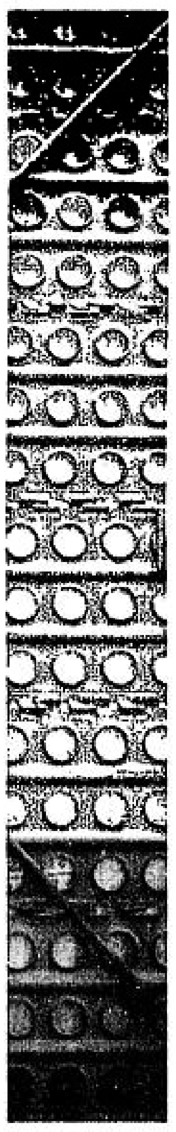
PHOTOGRAPHS BY WAHOO GUERRERO

RELATIONSHIPS can deteriorate silently as minor grievances fester into resentment . . .



. . .**AND** tenderness falls by the wayside.

Nurturing a partnership requires openness, understanding and keeping a healthy detachment of one another



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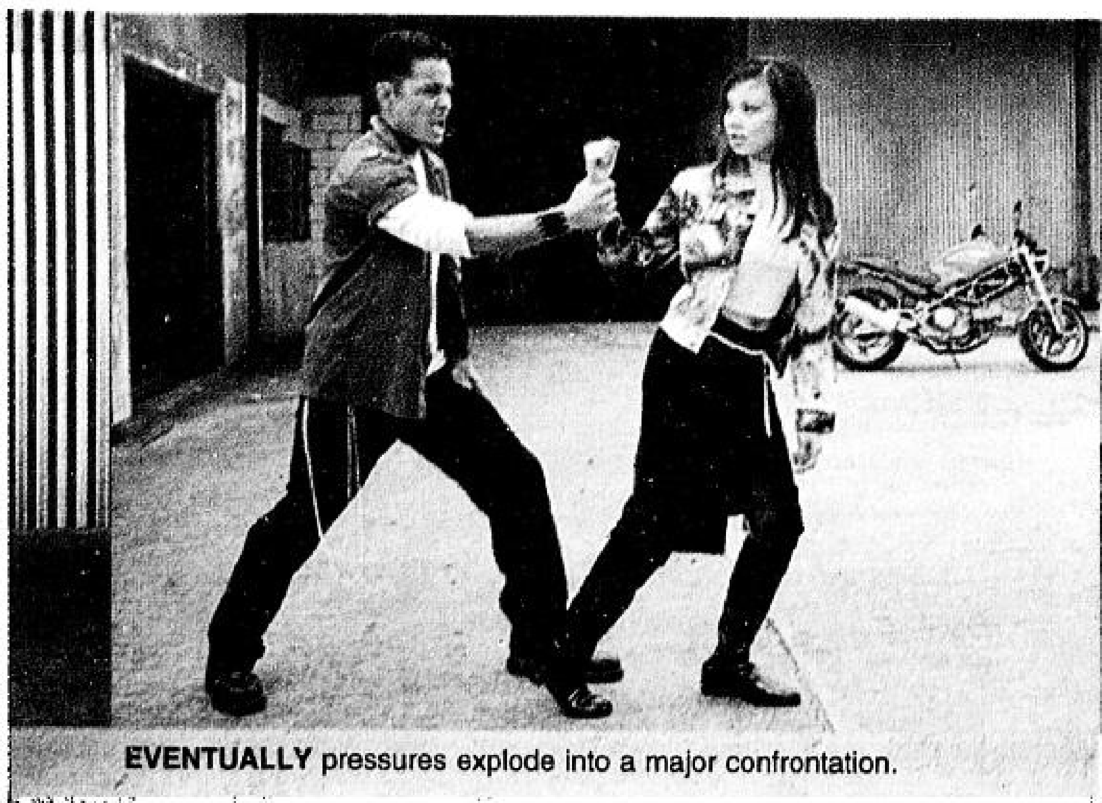
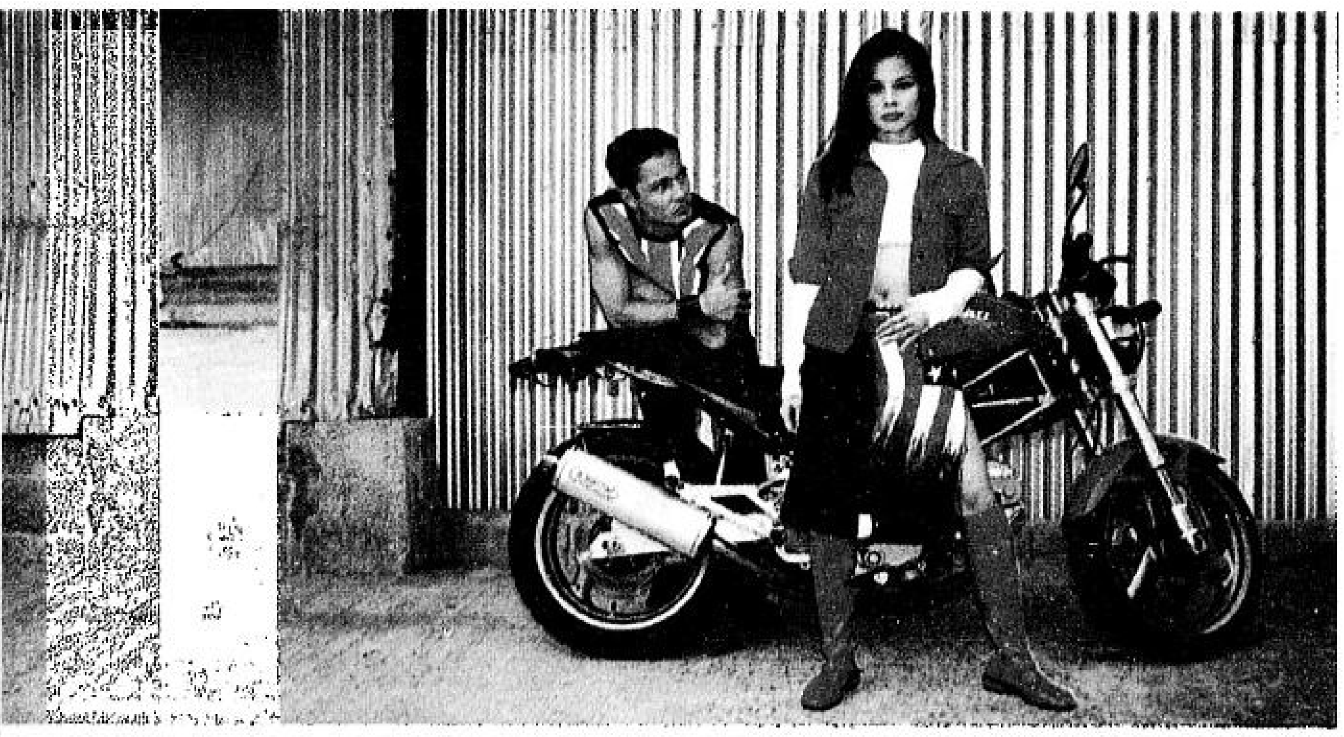


EVENTUALLY pressures explode into a major confrontation.



BANISHING stress in a relationship demands that we give each other both time together and time apart. If we can muster how we feel, then we can keep the complications of emotions under control. Bear in mind that we are still ourselves. We are not yet a couple, we are simply an affinity biding time.

The face as a canvas

BIANCA Araneta models the holiday look.

LIKE artists pushing the boundaries of a familiar medium, designers this season replaced the conventions of dressing with the possibilities of imagination. Looking far beyond their own milieu for inspiration, the boldest talents turned to fine art, architecture, design and technology to shape the clothes they offered for fall. The results ranged from bohemian luxe to cool minimalism, and from androgynous audacity to classic elegance. Amid this bounty of choices, a few clear trends emerged: graphic patterns, asymmetry, suede and leather, the return of the belt. Above all, designers this fall pursued drama and power—the irresistible allure of fearless glamour.

On runways on both sides of the Atlantic, the face, too, became a canvas for experimentation. Dark, distinctly lined eyes, a softly textured mouth, and rich but delicate metallics heightened the impact of the season's sophisticated clothes. Finish was as important as shade, with sheer but sueded textures and a gently matte surface that gave way to soft shine when and where needed.

Estee Lauder's In Color Collection captures the drama and glamour of fall with rich hues, velvety textures and the tools necessary to maximize line and contrast. Innovative combinations of liner and shade offer on-the-go ease, while a palette of deep, strong colors and subtle neutrals provides the most modern of contrasts. The effect is bold, forward-looking and absolutely individual.

Eyes are the focal point of the face this season, and In Color makes the most of the interest. Compact Disc Eye Shadows in Pale, Hazelnut, Honeydew and Fog are brushed across the lid for a single sweep of color. Or smooth on luxurious Go Wink Liquid Eye Shadow in Burgundy or Fiery for inviting color with a softly shimmering finish. Then it's time to consider your liner options: Automatic Eye Pencil Duo in Walnut Brown offers a smooth, smudgeable line of deep, dark color. Or use Liquid Eyeliner in Black to outline a precise and glamorous eye with a hint of screen-siren drama. Finally, brush lashes with More Than Mascara in Black for a lush finale.

Balance fall's deep, dramatic eye with lips that are full and naturally colored. Estee Lauder's new Real Rouge Lip Tint is a liquid stain that provides sheer, rosy color with a dewy finish. The result is lips that look vibrant, perfectly polished and naturally flushed. Three new shades of Pure Color Lipstick—Autumn, Nude and Black Wine—guarantee pure shine and optimal comfort in subtle, pigment-rich hues that enhance fall's dark fashion colors.

Though the glitter and gleam of the last few years look old now, we've all come to love the shimmer of light on skin. Estee Lauder has created Copperlights, a microfine loose powder that gives skin a subtle gold sheen while reflecting light and smoothing the complexion. No glitter, just a golden glow. Dust skin lightly in the evening and you'll look like you've captured a moonbeam.

Beautifully polished nails and toes are de rigueur in a season of real glamour. For fall, Estee Lauder's Pure Color Nail Lacquer in Autumn, Nude Shimmer and Black Wine offer three different takes on the season's graphic elegance. Choose the rich warmth of Autumn, the icy neutrality of Nude Shimmer, or the drama of Black Wine. Better yet, choose one for your fingers and another for your toes.

Fall's gotta-have-it beauty innovation is without a doubt the In Color Lip & Eye Blocks. As gorgeous as it is versatile, this color-block compact is the ideal all-in-one cosmetic.

Makeup for Asian skin

CARING Colours, an imported cosmetics line specially formulated for Asian skin, offers this season's perfect match.

Perfect Finish and Everlasting Lip Colour are offered for only P450. The promo runs until Nov. 30.

Perfect Finish is more than just a face powder. It gives a smooth and flawless finish to your makeup and it conceals and covers blemishes, too. It has Vitamin E and phytosqualene, a moisturizer derived from olive oil plus sun protection to shield your skin from harmful UV rays.

The Everlasting Lip Colour is a long-wearing creamy lipstick. It is specially formulated with aloe vera extract and jojoba oil to keep lips moist and soft. It also contains Vitamin E to help fight premature aging like fine lines on the lips.

Caring Colours cosmetics and skin-care products are available at the health & beauty section of the following SM branches: Makati, North Edsa, Ortigas, Manila, HP, Southmall, Fairview and Davao.

Seven habits of highly enlightened souls

(From page E1)

ism as saying, "When you die before you die, then you don't die when you die."

7. The beauty myth. This myth is pervasive in every culture and in every society. For example, many people aspire to be beautiful and happy like the models in the magazines. The belief is that beauty can be attained through buying and consuming. We spend a lot of energy desiring to attain our society's definition of beauty that constantly compares ourselves with others. The truth is, each one is absolutely unique. True beauty is inner beauty; it is the result of being enlightened.

Seven habits of highly enlightened souls

1. Be quiet. At least once a day, sit down. There is a source within each one of us called the spirit or soul. It is a crime to disturb the inner peace. This peace is our power to create positive things in our life. Try speaking softly and slowly than your usual way. Speaking this way is more powerful because it attracts the peace in others. Just be aware of your words. Savor their energy and rhythm.

2. Let go. Don't hold on to anything with your hand or with your mind. Many think that doing this means losing. If you don't release the old, you can't get anything new. This requires detachment. Letting go means moderating excessive attachment to material possessions, to emotions, or to the status quo or comfort zones in our lives.

3. Let it be. We are great fixers of other people's lives. We're trying to write somebody else's script. We are absent from our own lives because we're busy living the life of others. Acceptance and contentment are the first steps to healthy relationships.

George cites the example of our appreciation of the moon, which is beyond change. We never dream of wanting to change or influence it, nor have we the slightest remorse that the same face of the moon is always turned toward us: We have no need to see the dark side. Extend this deep feeling of acceptance to the people we meet.

4. Listen in. Use your intuition, the inner tutor and the voice of wisdom. George gave the example of his chronic smoking for 14 years. Though his inner voice told him that it was not healthy, he suppressed that voice. Because we have held on to our false beliefs for so long, we ignore and distrust our inner voice and tell it to shut up. The process of enlightenment is the process of learning to trust that inner voice once again.

George cites the example of conscience as intuition at work. When we misbehave, the voice of conscience alerts us to our mistake. We may shun that voice, engaging in reason as the ally of ego to justify our deeds. Yet the troubling intuitive disapproval of conscience will go on to make its rebukes. We can either suppress the advice or repair the wrong.

5. Wake up. Habits are programmed by our external conditioning. Write down your habits then decide which ones to strike out and replace them with virtues. Visualize the virtue you want to create and empower that image. For example, if you want to develop patience, visualize yourself as a patient person. Watch, feel and manifest patience in every action you do until it becomes your behavior. Waking up is to consciously choose your behavior and thereby create the personality you want. Never believe anyone who says, "You can never change."

6. Know yourself. Look behind the "I want" attitude, those desires that make us need things that are not necessary. The truth is, happiness is a choice, not a chore, a decision to bring out from the self. Affirm that you are happiness, a source of happiness.

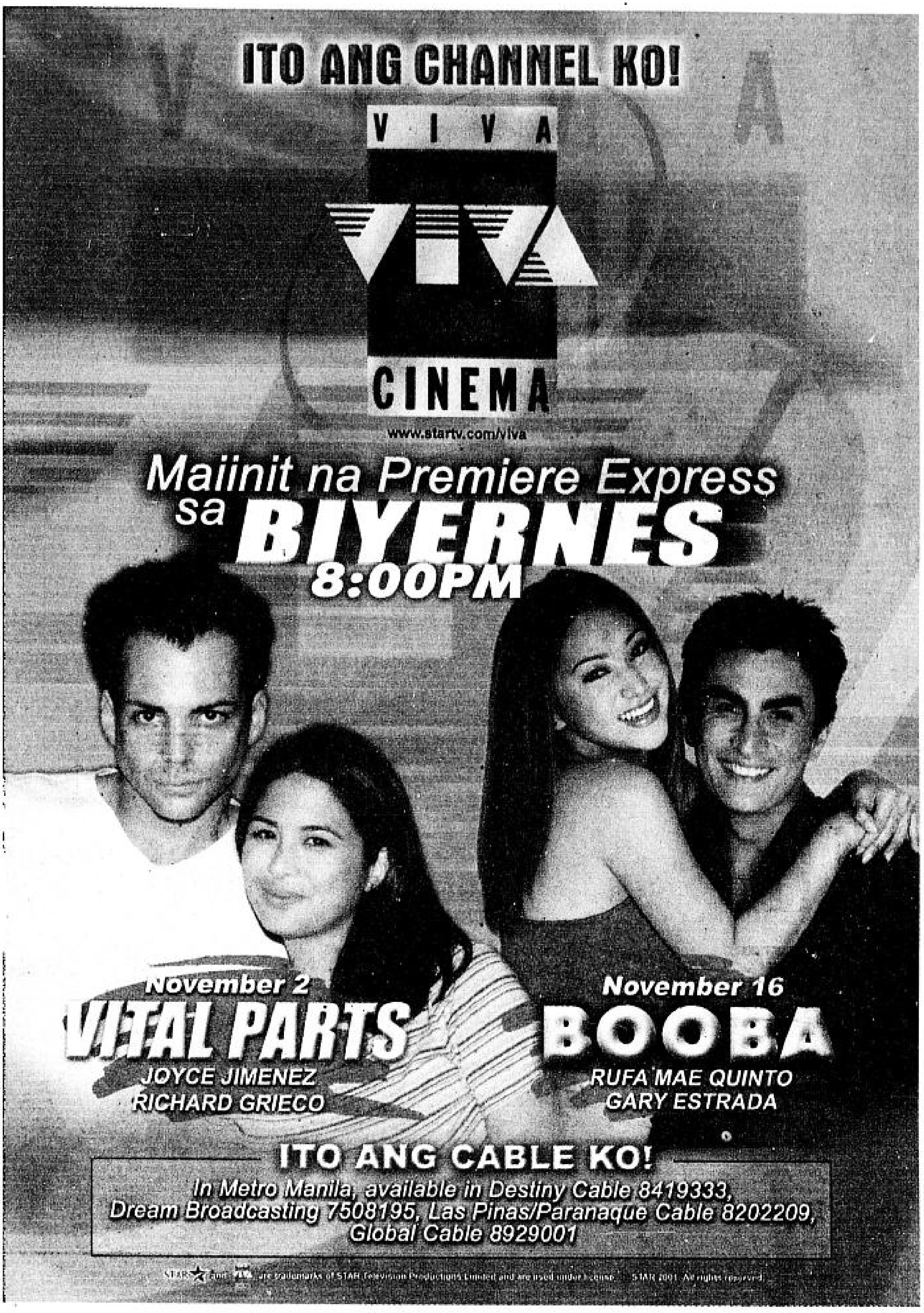
7. Pass it on. Take one idea from this article then pass it on to another. You empower yourself and the other as you share this truth. This is also giving value to the time you spent reading this.

George uses the river as metaphor for life. Life is like a river, constantly flowing. The highest purpose of rivers is to nourish plants and people who are fellow travelers in the journey of life. Our highest purpose is to nourish others. Like the river, the greatest gift one can give is wisdom. Through this, you empower yourself as well as others.

Try these habits, one by one.

After the lecture, a participant asked how the majority of Filipinos who live below the poverty line could be enlightened.

George replied, "Poverty is a perception. There are different levels of poverty: material, mental and spiritual or internal. The Philippines, compared to the UK, still has the spirit of community. When I go to the poor villages of Mt. Abu in India, I see children who have completely nothing but radiate with genuine happiness and innocence. This is spiritual richness, which you can never see in materially wealthy countries."



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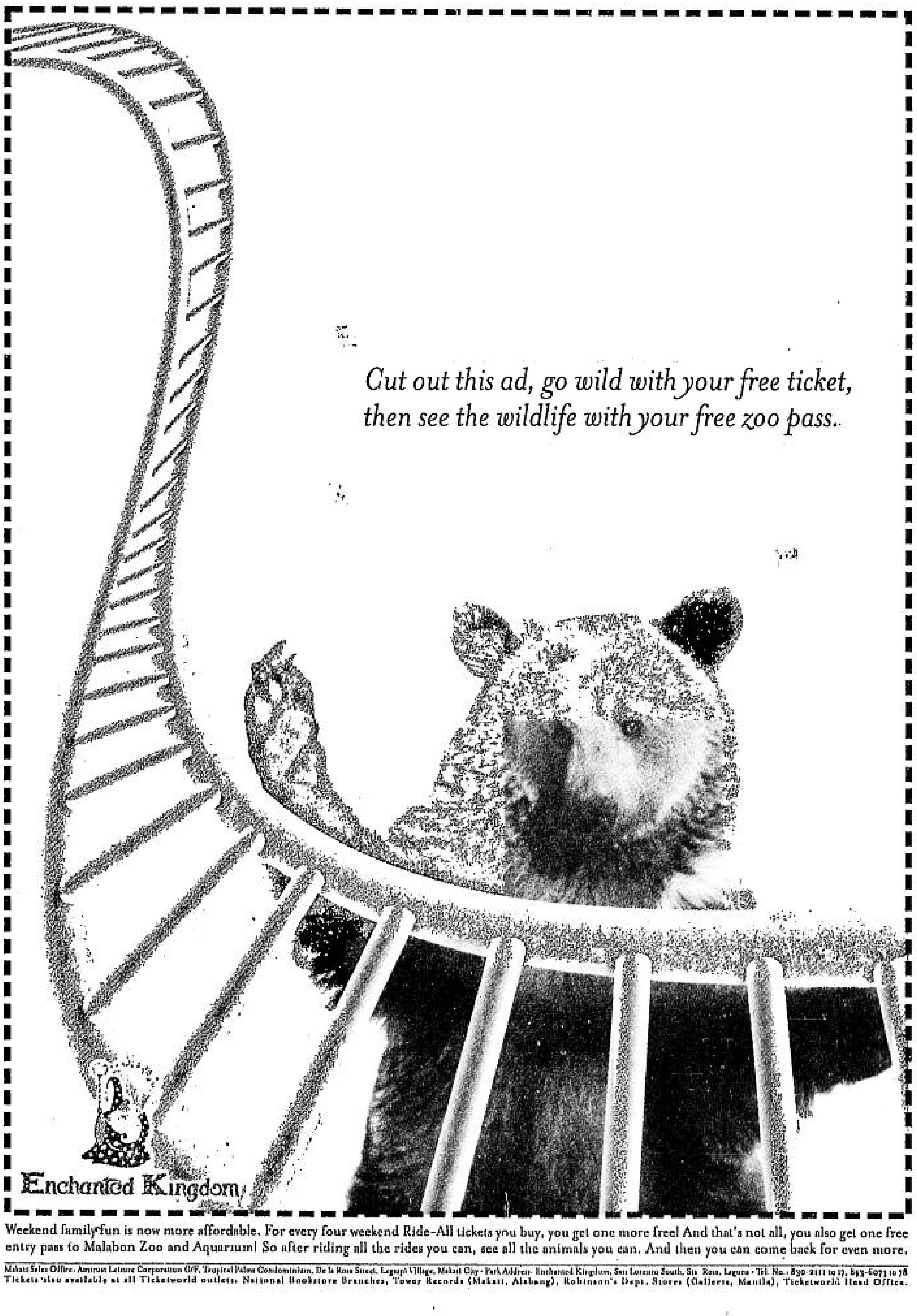

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Red revolution

The Red Dress
By Valerie Steele
Rizzoli International, 2001

BY CHERISH GARCIA-HERNANDEZ

REVIEW

FOR MANY, the classic little black dress is by far the most important piece in a woman's wardrobe. It's reliable, classic, often flattering. But in a social gathering or anywhere else for that matter, nothing can command attention more than a red dress.

There is something about the vividness of red that makes it stand out among all the other colors. If black is considered a "safe" choice when selecting a dress, red is looked upon as a daring choice. They say it takes a certain kind of woman to wear a red dress—one with enough panache and confidence to carry it off. It's not so much because a red dress shouts "look at me," the color red simply has the ability to draw people's attention. I love the color red. Even the simplest red shirt can liven up the sallowest of complexions. A touch of red lipstick and suddenly one looks all made up.

Vivid sexuality

But what is it about the color red? According to Valerie Steele, fashion historian and author of "The Red Dress," aside from the fact that there is something visually compelling about it, red symbolizes a whole spectrum of things. What often comes to mind is sexuality, especially female sexuality. This extends beyond the clothes as well. A woman with ruby-colored lips and nails is often perceived as being a powerful vamp. A "Scarlet Woman" is a connotation used to refer to an adulteress or a prostitute. The "red light" district is where sexual favors and raunchy shows can be found.

Red could also mean danger as is implied by a "red alert." Sirens are always red and in traffic lights, the color red means stop. In China, red is the color of luck and many Chinese brides opt to get married in red rather than the traditional Western white. In Medieval Europe, only the aristocracy was allowed to wear red with peasants having to settle for brown or gray. Because the dye used to produce the color was so expensive, red became a symbol of wealth. This was why back then, many chose to don red when having their portrait painted.

AVANT-GARDE Japanese designer Yohji Yamamoto usually works in a somber palette of black, navy and white. In one collection, he made extravagant use of red suede to evoke Mongolian style.

Steele goes further by saying that red is also the color of revolution and radical politics. For instance the Russian communist army was called the Red Army versus the Czarist Whites. Incidentally, red also means the same as beautiful in Russian. China, on the other hand, had Red Guards and the Little Red Book.

And maybe because red conjures up all sorts of images, the red dress has become a symbol of beauty in fashion and art throughout our history. Steele pays tribute to the red dress in her book through a visual display of dresses by renowned designers as well as paintings, lithographs and vintage magazine covers.

Sumptuous

This sumptuously designed book juxtaposes unique art direction and graphic design with outstanding illustrations of how the red dress has permeated our consciousness for centuries. Photographs are laid out on variations of "wallpaper"-like designs that range from psychedelic to minimalist. Patterns that seem to bring out infinite shades of red from crimson to burgundy become the backdrop for the red dress and its various incarnations.

What makes this book so delightful is Steele's imaginative selection of examples of the red dress. Many top designers have had their take on the red dress, and whether it is a glamorous Oscar de la Renta gown or a young, flirty Isaac Mizrahi dress, you'll find it here. Even Armani, the king of muted colors, has given red a try. And Rei Kawakubo, known for her fixation with black, has been quoted to exclaim "red is black."

As for the illustrations, we are treated to everything from a Rene Bouche, one of Vogue's most popular illustrators in the '40s and '50s, to a whimsical Ruben Toledo, who's illustrations have graced the pages of modern-day Vogue as well as countless advertisements for chic establishments like Barney's New York. "The Red Dress" also has facsimiles of an Elizabeth I portrait, an Edgar Degas painting and Paul Ruben's "Virgin and Child," among others.

Aside from an introduction that serves as a treatise on what red is all about, there is hardly any text throughout the book, just a few quotes and excerpts from poems with reference to the color red. The visuals, however, are more than enough to prove Steele's point. There is something about the color red, maybe that's why many chose to wear red on their birthdays, and why we call special days "red-letter days." Whatever it is, "The Red Dress" is a great book with marvelous visuals; it is also a fitting tribute and an enlivening read that reiterates the importance of the red dress as a fashion icon.

E-mail the author at cherishgh@,yahoo.com

GIANFRANCO Ferre is known as an architectural designer, so this 2001 body-revealing dress is atypical of his work. But its resemblance to a necklace reminds us that Ferre was a jewelry designer before he turned to designing clothes.

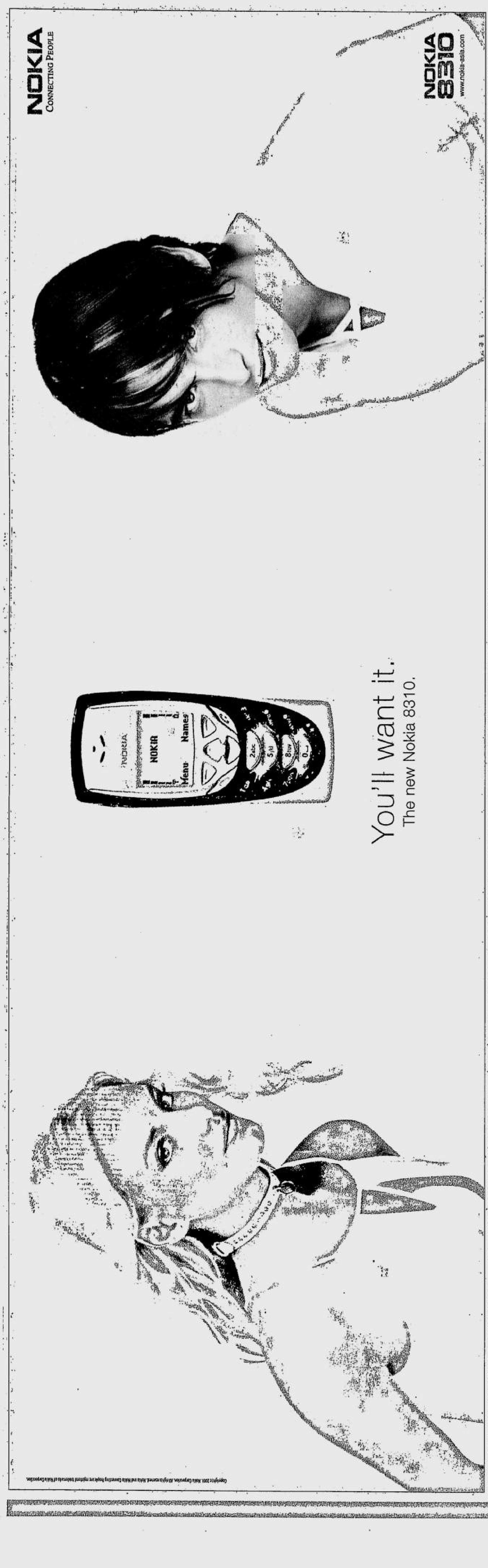
This color is a standout because of its vividness, its connotation of unmitigated sexuality, and its suggestion of insurrection and defiance

Get silver-struck

SILVER jewelry takes on a modern edge spun in chain, mesh and string detailing. Neckpieces come in various forms such as the Y-necklaces, lariats and dangling drop pendants, intricately woven mesh chokers, silver and rhinestones or colored stones.

Available at the Ladies Accessories collection of all SM stores.

SILVER square-shaped plates make up this sleek, sophisticated choker.



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